Lawmakers of Montana

LEGISLATIVE SESSION of 1997

John MacMaster

Lawmakers of Montana

LEGISLATIVE SESSION of 1997

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The 1997 "Copper Book" is sponsored by the following associations and companies as a biographical reference of those chosen to serve in Montana's 55th Legislative Assembly. We congratulate you who have been elected as lawmakers for our state in this important and critical period. May the session be one of sound and realistic accomplishment for the progress and benefit of Montanans.

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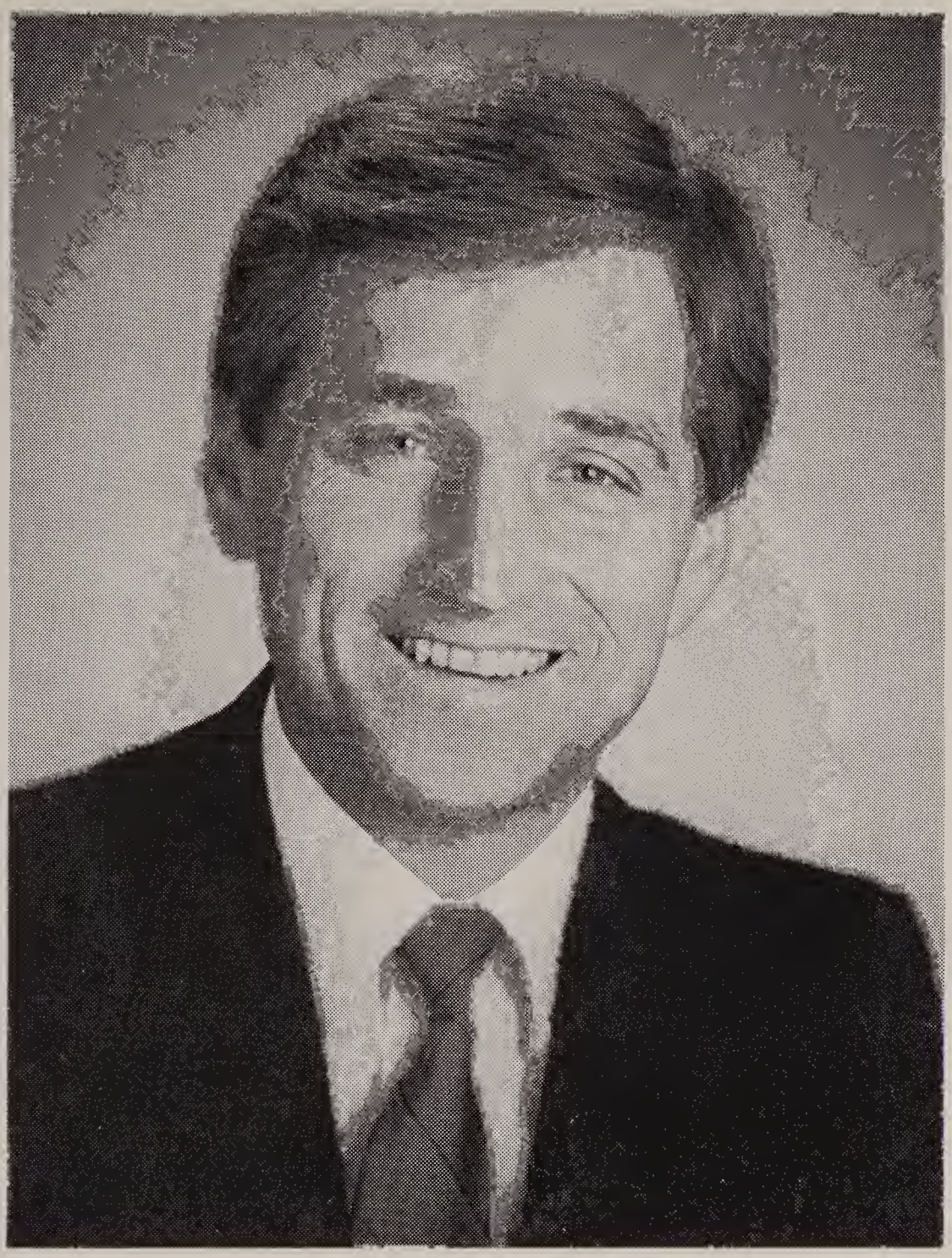


GOVERNOR MARC RACICOT

Governor Marc Racicot, first elected in 1992, is Montana's twentieth governor. In 1996, he was re-elected with 79 per cent of the vote, the largest in Montana's history and the largest percentage in U.S. Governor's races in 1996. Born on July 24, 1948, in Thompson Falls, Montana, he graduated from Libby High School in 1966. He received his B.A. from Carroll College in 1970 and his law degree from the University of Montana in 1973. From 1973 to 1976, Racicot served as a prosecutor with the U.S. Army and taught law in West Germany. He returned to Montana to work as a deputy county attorney in Missoula where he founded the Missoula Drug Treatment Program. Gov. Racicot was an assistant attorney general from 1977 until his election as Montana attorney general in 1988. He serves on the Board of Directors for United Way, is a member of the Board of Visitors of the University of Montana Law School and was a member of the Board of Trustees at Carroll College from 1989-1993. Marc and Theresa, who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in 1995, have five children.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JUDY MARTZ

Elected in 1996, Lieutenant Governor Judy Martz, a Montana businesswoman, was born July 28, 1943 in Big Timber, Montana, to ranching parents. She graduated from Butte High School in 1961 and attended Eastern Montana College. She represented America as a member of the U.S. World Speed Skating Team in Japan, in 1963, and as a member of the U.S. Olympic Team as a speed skater at the 1964 Winter Games in Innsbruck, Austria. She was the catalyst for the creation of the U.S. High Altitude Speed Skating Center, located in Butte, and served as the Center's executive director from 1985 to 1989. Montana's first woman Lieutenant Governor worked as a field representative for Senate Conrad Burns from 1989 to 1995. For more than 25 years, she and her husband Harry have owned and operated a commercial solid-waste business in Butte. She served as vice chair of the board of directors for St. James Hospital and is a current board member, is a member of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, is a former member of the Montana Ambassadors and is a board member of the Legion Oasis HUD Housing Project. She and Harry, who were married in 1965, have two grown children--Justin and Stacey.

The Senate

Fifty-fifth Assembly

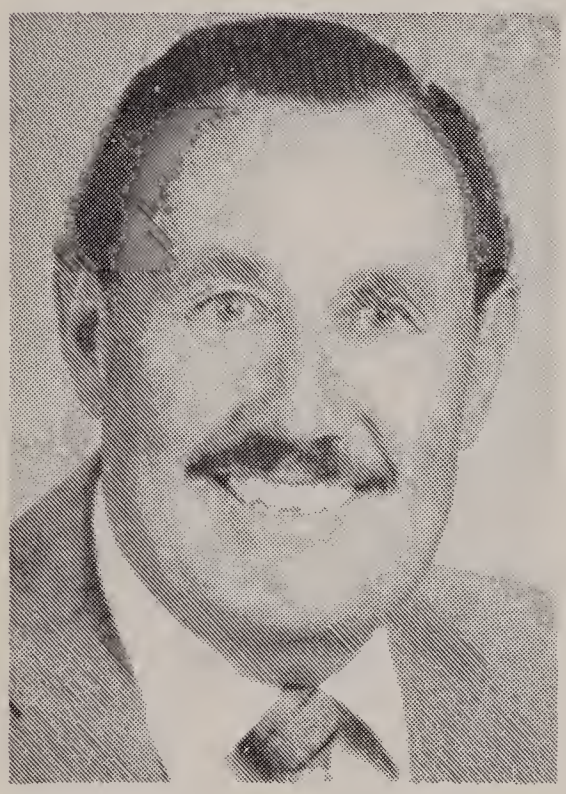
GARY C. AKLESTAD

President of the Senate

Gary C. Aklestad - Galata, District 44, Republican. He was born Dec. 9, 1932 in Shelby and is a graduate of Flathead High School in Kalispell. A farmer-rancher, he has received Farmer of the Year and Elk of Year awards and was named Conservationist of the Year in 1972. Aklestad is a U.S. Army veteran and a Toole County Republican past chairman. Having served in the Montana Senate since 1979, he is Dean of the Senate Republicans and shares the title of Dean of the Senate with Sen. Fred Van Valkenburg. Aklestad has been elected to several leadership positions in the Senate, including majority whip in 1983-84, Republican floor leader in 1987-88, President pro tempore in 1995-96 and Senate President for 1997-98. His wife's name is Beth and they have three daughters.

John G. Harp - Kalispell, District 42, Republican. Born Sept. 26, 1952 in Vancouver, Wash., and came to Montana in 1954; Flathead High School graduate, attended Missoula Business College; businessman; served in House 1981-88, in Senate since 1989; minority whip, 1993-94, majority leader, 1995-96 and 1997-98; wife's name is Kathy, they have three sons.

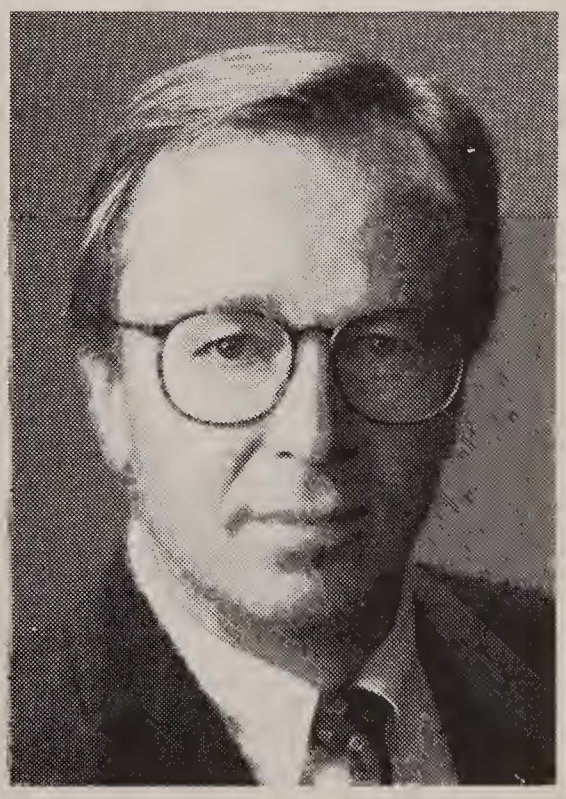
John Harp
Majority Leader



Bruce Crippen
President Pro Tempore

Bruce D. Crippen - Billings, District 10, Republican. Born June 13, 1932 in Billings; Billings Senior High School graduate, graduate University of Montana, University of Montana School of Law and New York University Graduate School of Law; real estate investments; U.S. Navy veteran; served in Senate since 1981; minority whip, 1985-86; minority leader, 1991-94; President pro tempore, 1997-98; wife's name is Mary, they have four children.

Mike Halligan - Missoula, District 34, Democrat. Born July 9, 1949 in Jamestown, N.D.; Billings West High School graduate; bachelor's, history and political science, University of Montana; masters, public administration, University of Montana; law degree, University of Montana; attorney; U.S. Army veteran; served in Senate since 1981; minority leader, 1995-96 and 1997-98; wife's name is Leslie, they have three sons.



Mike Halligan
Minority Leader

Larry Baer

Larry Baer - Bigfork, District 38, Republican. Born March 25, 1944 in Chicago Heights, Ill.; came to Montana in 1983; J.D., Humphreys College School of Law; attorney and businessman, international collectible firearms consultant; U.S. Navy veteran; served in Senate since 1995; wife's name is Shirley, they have three grown children.

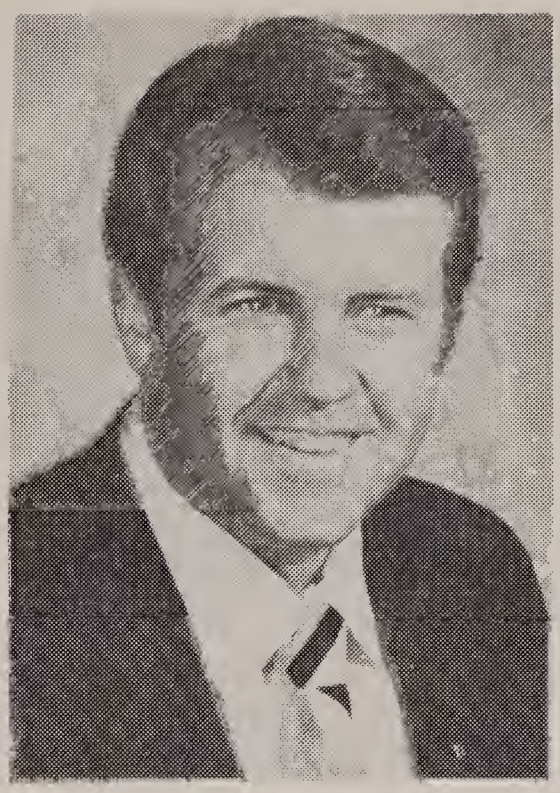
Sue Bartlett - Helena, District 27, Democrat. Born July 4, 1947 in Billings; Billings West High School graduate; B.A., history, Washington University, St. Louis; technical writer; Lewis & Clark County Clerk and Recorder, 1983-91; Assistant Secretary of Montana Senate, 1991-92; Montana Women's Lobby past board member and treasurer; served in Senate since 1993; husband's name is Gene Fenderson.

Sue Bartlett

Tom Beck

Tom Beck - Deer Lodge, District 28, Republican. Born Nov. 14, 1939 in Deer Lodge; Powell County High School graduate; attended Montana State University; rancher; former Powell County Commissioner; president of Montana Association of Counties and chairman of Powell Hospital Board; served in Senate since 1987, majority whip, 1995-96; wife's name is Kay; they have two daughters and a son.

Steve Benedict - Hamilton, District 30, Republican. Born July 30, 1948 in Carmel, California, and first came to Montana in 1950; Moscow, Idaho, High School graduate; attended University of Idaho; radio station owner; avid horseman and rodeo producer; served in House 1991-1994, in Senate since 1995; wife's name is Donna, they have two daughters and a son.



Steve Benedict

Al Bishop

Al Bishop - Billings, District 9, Republican. Born Feb. 19, 1925, in Laurel; Laurel High School graduate; J.D., University of Montana; attorney; Montana Fish and Game Commissioner, 1977-81; served in Senate 1987-1990 and since1995; wife's name is Elayne; he has one son, one daughter, and two stepsons.

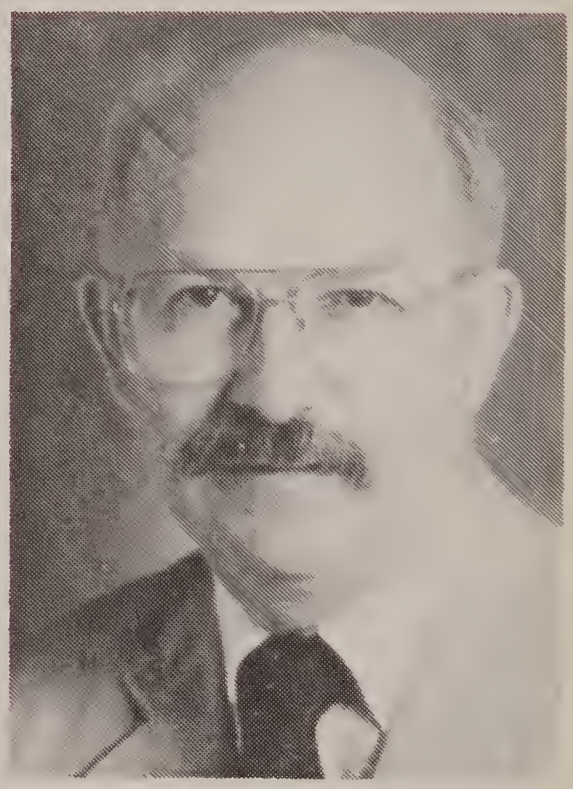
Vivian M. Brooke - Missoula, District 33, Democrat. Born Feb. 6, 1943 in New York City and moved to Montana in 1962; Clearwater, Florida, High School graduate; B.A. sociology, Carroll College; active in civic groups; served in House 1989-94, in Senate since 1995; husband's name is Joseph, they have three daughters, a son and a granddaughter.

Vivian Brooke

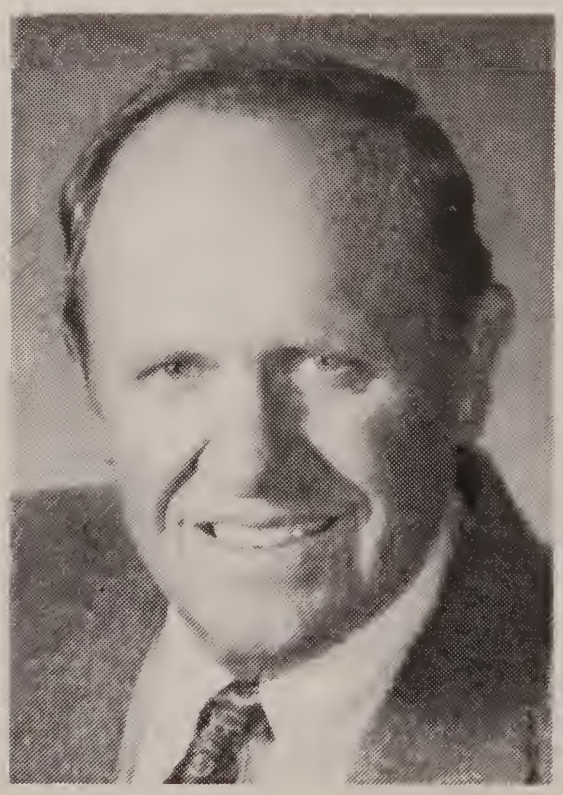
Jim Burnett

Jim Burnett - Luther, District 12, Republican. Born July 1, 1917 on family ranch west of Red Lodge; attended Billings Polytech; rancher; Paul Harris fellow; cadet program WWII liaison to U.S. Air Force Academy, WWII combat veteran; founder of beefalo breed; served in House 1969-82 and the Senate since 1991; wife's name is Betty, they have two daughters.

B.F. "Chris" Christiaens - Great Falls, District 23, Democrat. Born March 7, 1940 in Conrad; Valier High School graduate; B.A., chemistry, Masters of Human Service, University of Great Falls; licensing agent for World Wide Press, parttime professor, University of Great Falls, and consultant in substance abuse and criminal justice; BOS-PIC Chairman, 1984-88; served in Senate, 1983-86 and since 1991; majority whip, 1985-86; single.



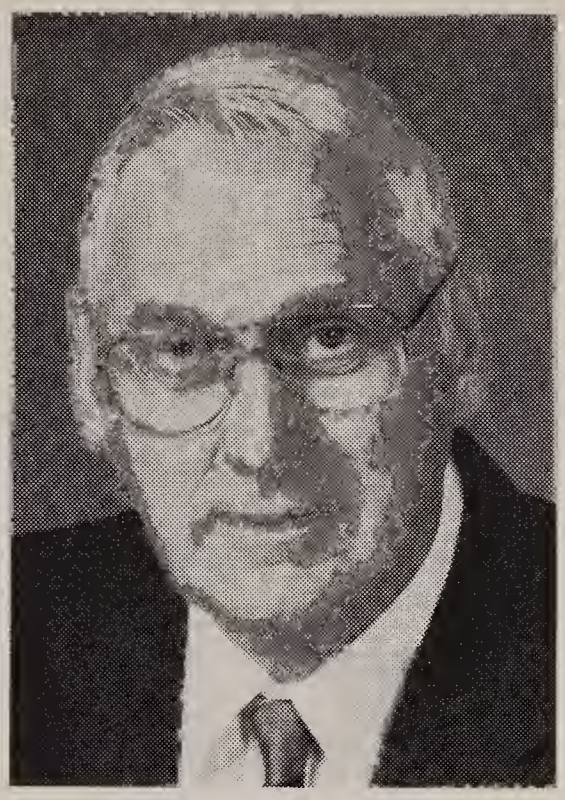
B.F. "Chris" Christiaens



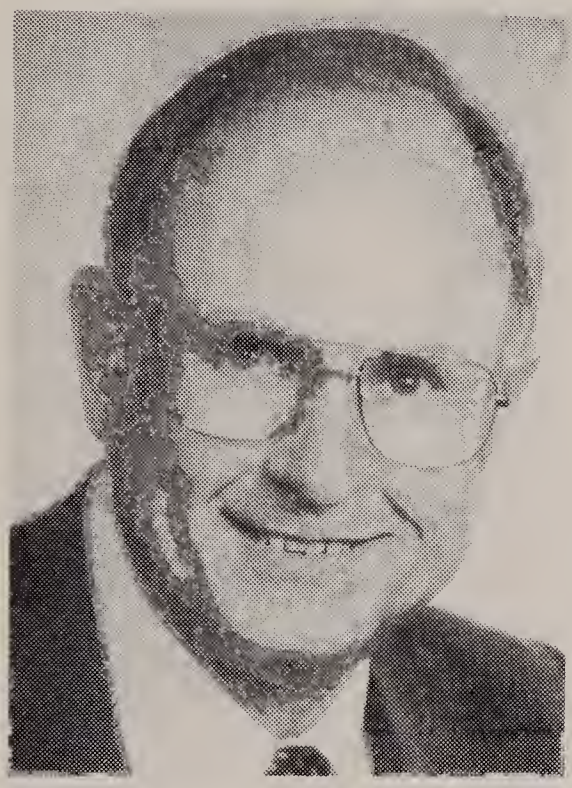
Mack Cole

Mack Cole - Hysham, District 4, Republican. Born June 4, 1936 in Forsyth; Hysham High School graduate, B.S., range management, Montana State University; M.S., international relations, Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management; former director of trust responsibilities, Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs; served in Senate since 1995; wife's name is Judy, they have three children and five grandchildren.

William Crismore - Libby, District 41, Republican. Born May 9, 1933 in Hot Springs; Hot Springs High School graduate; owner of Crismore Logging and Road Maintenance Co.; Montana Logging Association past president; served in Senate since 1995; wife's name is Carol, they have a family of seven.



William Crismore



Robert L. "Bob" DePratu

Robert L. (Bob) DePratu - Whitefish, District 40, Republican. Born July 21, 1939 in Eureka; Lincoln County High graduate; Kinman Business College associate degree, accounting; auto dealer and owner DePratu Ford, VW, Audi; North Valley Hospital Board; Whitefish Chamber Board, former president; volunteer fireman, fire chief, and president; Ford Motor Co. Dealer Council, Governmental Affairs, New Products committees; served in Senate 1997; wife's name is Bea, they have three children, 11 grandchildren.

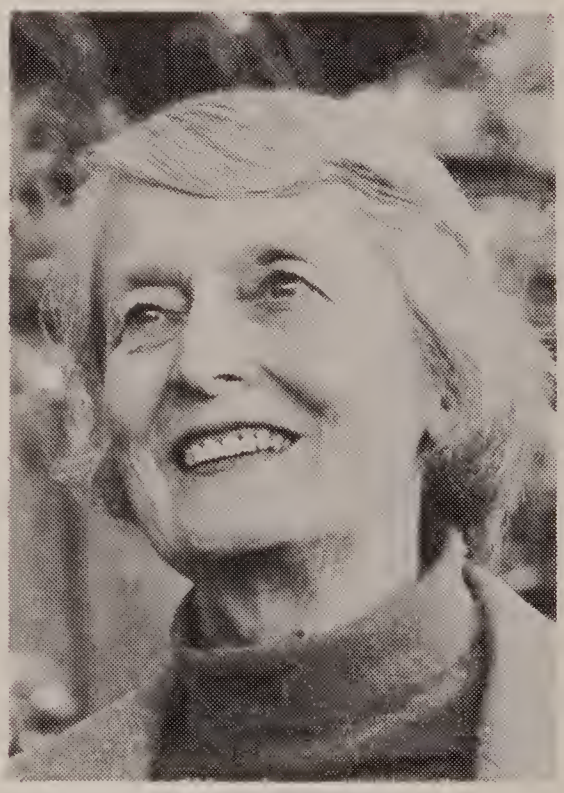
Gerry Devlin - Terry, District 2, Republican. Born Sept. 11, 1931 in Miles City; Terry High School graduate; farmer-rancher; Montana Wool Growers Association past president; U.S. Army veteran; served in House 1981-88, in Senate since 1989; wife's name is Isabelle, they have three sons.

Gerry Devlin

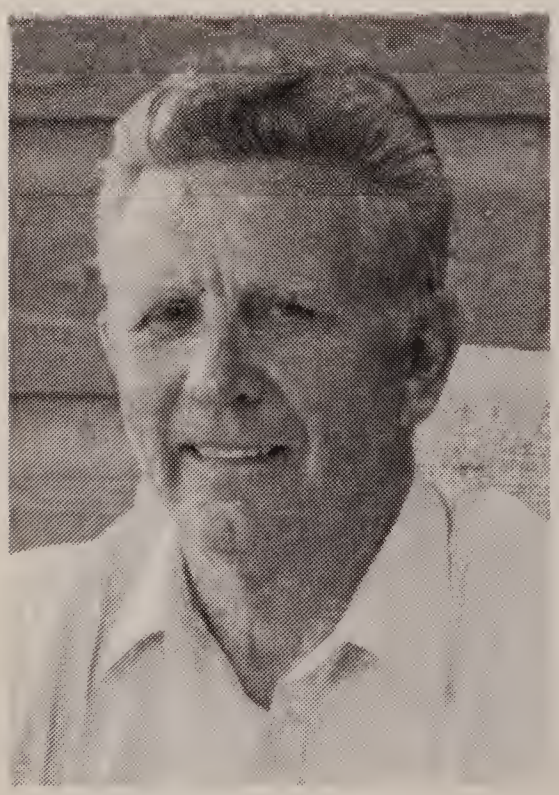
Steve Doherty

Steve Doherty - Great Falls, District 24, Democrat. Born May 5, 1952 in Great Falls; Great Falls Central High School graduate; B.A., University of Pennsylvania; J.D., Lewis & Clark Law School; attorney; served in Senate since 1991, majority whip, 1993-94, minority whip 1995-96; single.

Dorothy Eck - Bozeman, District 15, Democrat. Born Jan. 23, 1924 in Sequim, Washington, came to Montana in 1946; B.S., M.S., Montana State University; small business; Montana Constitution Convention delegate, 1971-72; served in Senate since 1981; widow; she has a daughter.



Dorothy Eck



C.A. "Casey" Emerson

C. A. "Casey" Emerson - Bozeman, District 14, Republican. Born Oct. 25, 1925 in Ramsey County, N.D., came to Montana in 1950; Church's Ferry School, North Dakota, graduate; B.S., University of North Dakota; M.Ed., Montana State University; president of King Tool Inc.; finance director, Gallatin County Republicans, 1992, research director, Dick Smiley campaign, 1962; served in Senate since 1995; wife's name is Bernice, they have five children.

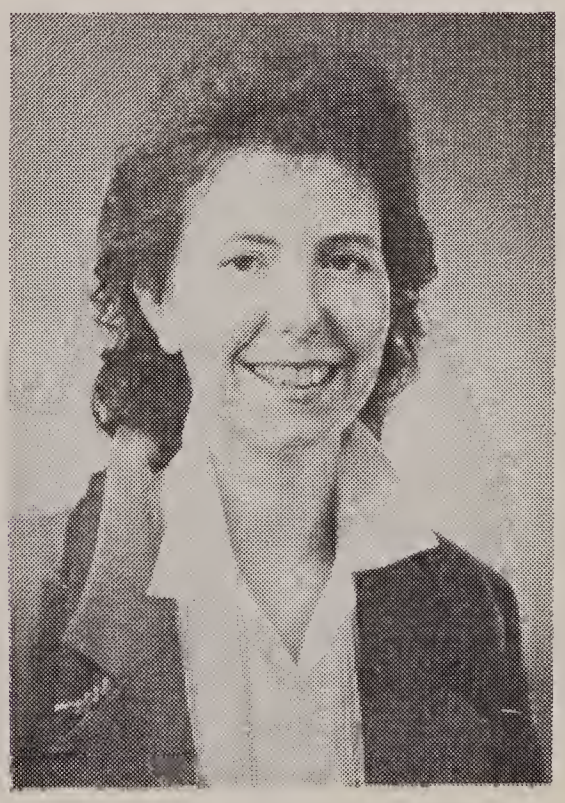
Sharon Estrada - Billings, District 7, Republican. Born Jan. 18, 1944 in Seattle, came to Montana in 1964; graduate of Yuma, Ariz., High School and attended many schools and seminars relating to finance and organization; notary public; has held numerous volunteer positions in the Republican Party; served in Senate since 1995; husband's name is Bruce McLean, she has a son.

Sharon Estrada

Mike Foster
Majority Whip

Mike Foster - Townsend, District 20, Republican. Born March 5, 1955 in Townsend; Broadwater County High graduate; B.S., education, Western Montana College; B.A., business administration, Carroll College; M.A., public administration, University of Montana; Montana Hospitals Rate Review System executive director; served in House 1991-94, in Senate since 1995; wife's name is Mary, they have three children.

Eve Franklin - Great Falls, District 21, Democrat. Born Aug. 14, 1954 in New York, came to Montana in 1987; attended Earlham College and Herbert H. Lehman College, B.S. and M.S. in nursing; nurse-educator; served in Senate since 1991, minority whip 1997-98; husband's name is Les Nilson.



Eve Franklin
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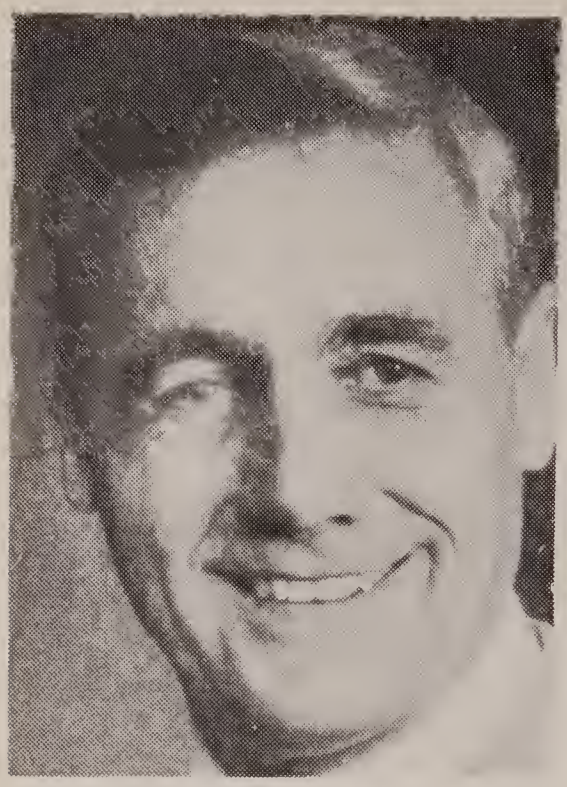
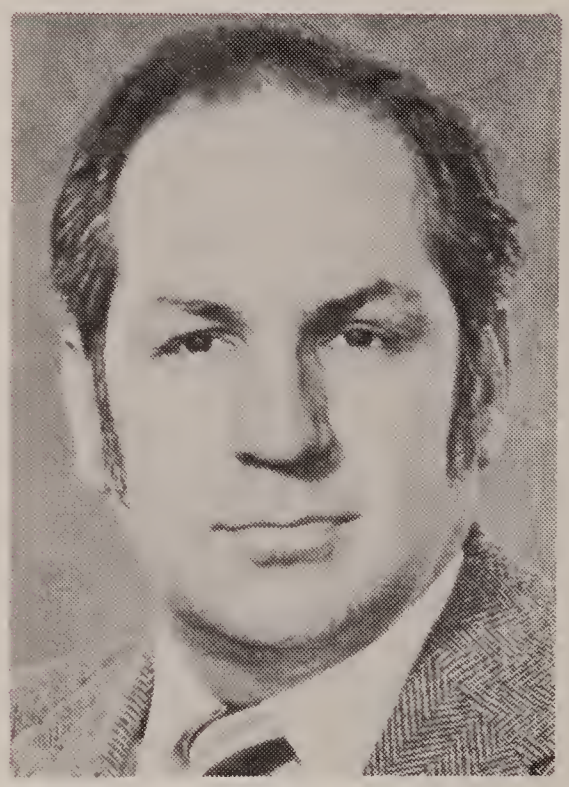


Delwyn Gage

Delwyn Gage - Cut Bank, District 43, Republican. Born Nov. 28, 1930 in Clavin, North Dakota and came to Montana in 1935; Shelby High School graduate; accounting and finance, Brigham Young University; School Board trustee, nine years; U.S. Marine Corps Korean Conflict veteran; served in Senate since 1983, majority leader, 1989-90; wife's name is Marlene, they have three daughters and three sons.

William E. (Bill) Glaser - Shepherd, District 8, Republican. Born January 4, 1940 in Long Beach, California, and attended California schools; came to Montana in 1957; sound contractor; served in House 1985-1990, in Senate 1997; wife's name is Patsy; they have six children.

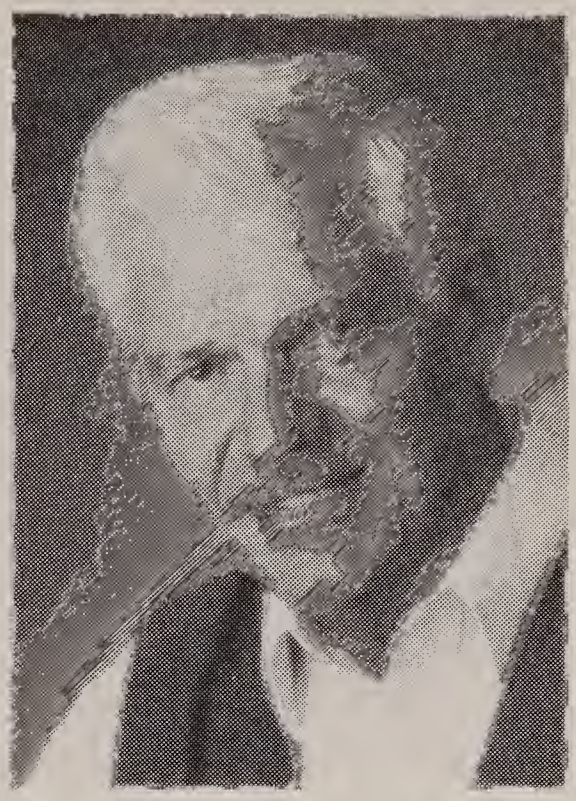


William E. "Bill" Glaser

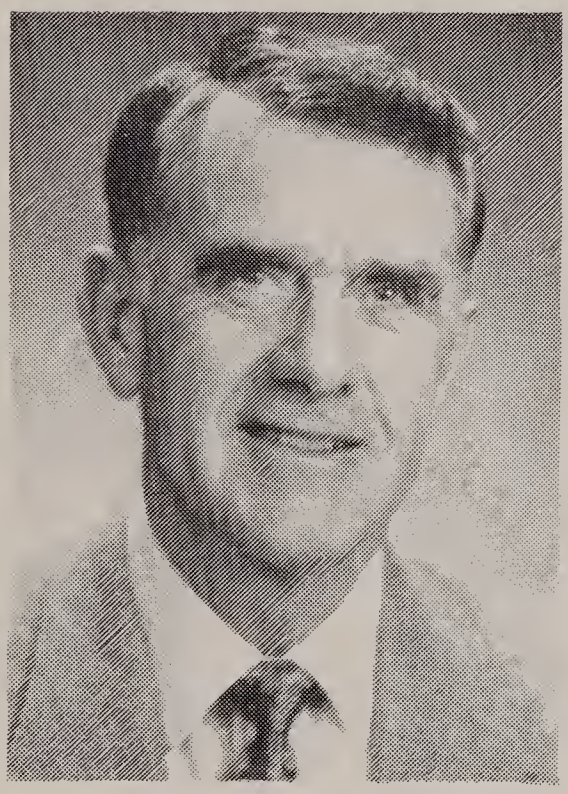
Lorents Grosfield

Lorents Grosfield - Big Timber, District 13, Republican. Born August 27, 1944 in Billings; attended St. Olaf College in Minnesota; B.A., business administration, Colorado State University; cattle rancher; Conservation District supervisor, 12 years; Montana Board of Natural Resources, 1989-90; U.S. Army Vietnam veteran; served in Senate since 1991; wife's name is Syd, they have three sons.

Don Hargrove - Belgrade, District 16, Republican. Born March 16, 1933 in Bozeman; Gallatin County High School graduate; B.S., range management, Montana State University; M.S. in systems management, University of Southern California; aviation consultant and auctioneer; U.S. Defense Attache to Bolivia and contract adviser to the Colombian Narcotics Police; U.S. Air Force retired colonel; served in Senate since 1995; wife's name is Eloise, they have three sons.



Don Hargrove

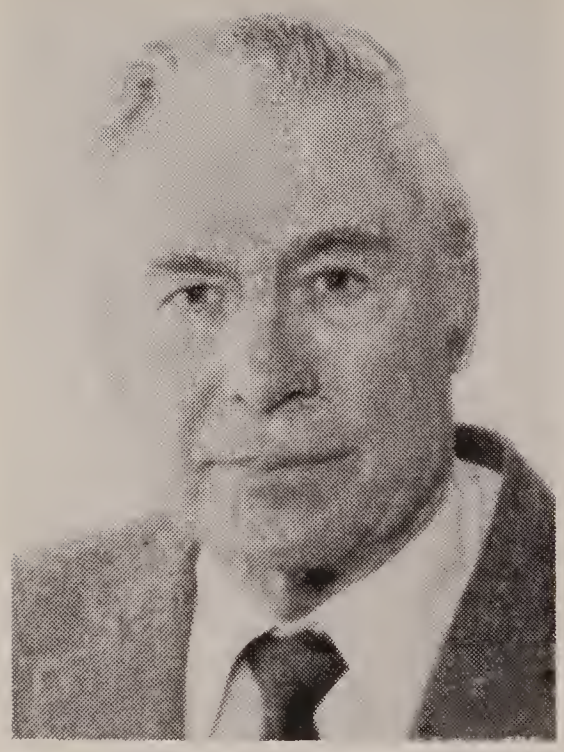


John R. Hertel

John R. Hertel - Moore, District 47, Republican. Born May 9, 1940 in Lewistown; Moore High School graduate; B.S., Rocky Mountain College; farmer-rancher; Moore School Board trustee, 17 years; Moccasin Experiment Station advisory board, 6 years; Moore Farmers Oil Co. board, 12 years; former bank director; former FmHA director; served in Senate since 1993; wife's name is Dixie, they have two daughters and a son.

Ric Holden - Glendive, District 1, Republican. Born Aug. 31, 1961 in Spokane, Wash., and came to Montana as an infant; Absarokee High School graduate, Montana State University business management graduate with minors in finance and marketing; farmer-rancher, insurance representative; member of Montana Wool Growers Assn., Montana Stockgrowers Assn, 4-H Leadership Council and National Rifle Assn; MSU Air Force ROTC; served in Senate since 1995; wife's name is Jan, they have three children

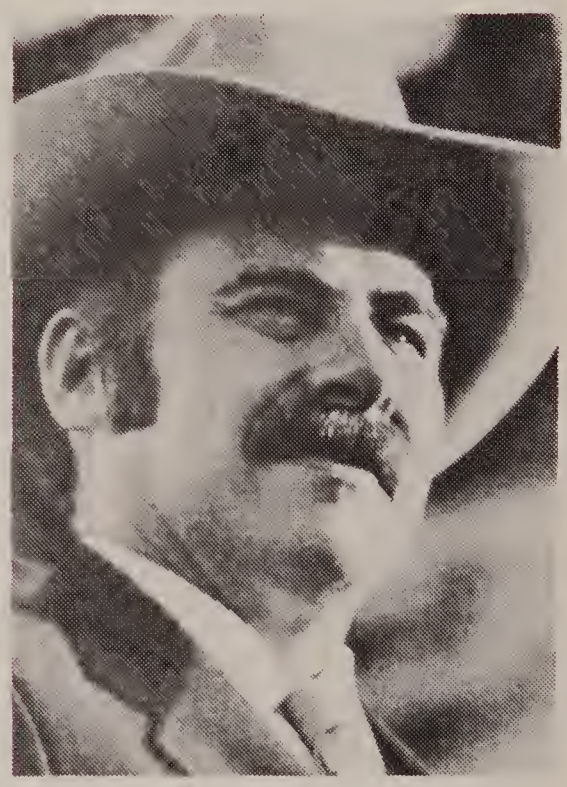
Ric Holden



Reiny Jabs

Reiny Jabs - Hardin, District 3, Republican. Born May 4, 1929 in Lodge Grass; Hardin High School graduate; B.S. agriculture-education, Montana State University; farmer-rancher; past board member of Big Horn County FHA, SCS and ASCS committees and Hardin School Board; Big Horn County Electric Coop trustee; U.S. Air Force Korea veteran; served in Senate since 1995; wife's name is Monte Lee, they have four children.

Loren Jenkins - Big Sandy, District 45, Republican. Born Feb. 5, 1941 in Havre; attended Big Sandy schools; farmer; Elks member; Bearpaw Gun Club lifetime member; served in House 1985-88, in Senate 1989-90 and since 1995; wife's name is Donna; they have three sons and five grandchildren.



Loren Jenkins

Greg Jergeson

Greg Jergeson - Chinook, District 46, Democrat. Born Dec. 29, 1950 in Havre; Chinook High School graduate; B.A. political science, University of Montana; MSU-Northern Foundation coordinator; Montana Board of Investments, 1981-85; Blaine County Planning Board, 1983 to present; served in Senate 1974-1980 and since 1987; assistant minority leader, 1979-80; majority leader, 1993-94; wife's name is Barb, they have two children.

Thomas F. Keating - Billings, District 5, Republican. Born Nov. 26, 1928 in Langdon, North Dakota and came to Montana in 1936; degree, business administration, Portland University; self-employed in petroleum industry; U.S. Air Force veteran; served in Senate since 1981; minority whip, 1991-92; wife's name is "Luke," they have four sons and one daughter.

Thomas F. Keating

J.D. Lynch

J.D. Lynch - Butte, District 19, Democrat. Born Sept. 17, 1947 in Butte; Butte Central High School graduate, bachelor's, Western Montana College; master's, Northern Montana College; teacher; Western Montana College Outstanding Alumni, 1977; State Legislative Leaders Foundation board of directors; served in House 1971-1978, in Senate since 1982; president pro temp, 1991-94; wife's name is Shannon, they have two daughters.

Dale Mahlum - Missoula, District 35, Republican. Born June 12, 1930 in Bowman, N.D., and came to Montana in 1934; Corvallis High graduate; bachelor's, business administration-marketing, University of Montana; businessman; State Fund (Worker Comp) Board; UM Business School Advisory Board; Missoula County Fair Board; Montana Board of Horse Racing; U.S. Navy veteran; served in Senate 1997; wife's name is Sue, they have five children

Dale Mahlum

Bea McCarthy

Bea McCarthy - Anaconda, District 29, Democrat. Born April 17, 1935 in Great Falls; Bozeman Holy Rosary High School graduate; B.S. Elementary Education, Montana State University; elementary teacher; Montana Board of Regents, 1983-90; Montana Council of Families vice president; Anaconda Prevent Child Abuse Council executive board member; served in House 1991-94, in Senate 1997; husband's name is Edward, they have two daughters and two sons.

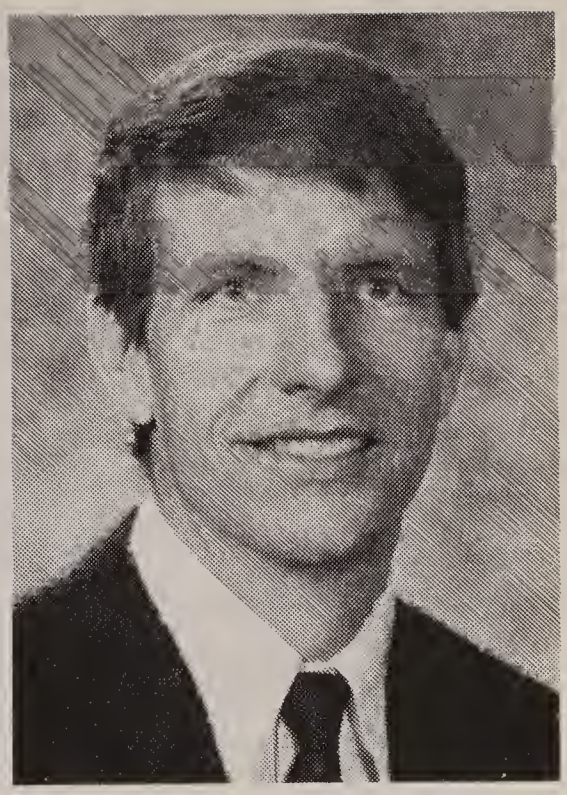
Walter McNutt - Sidney, District 50, Republican. Born November 8, 1940 in Worland, Wyoming, and came to Montana in 1957; Great Falls High graduate, B.S. Marketing & Economics, College of Great Falls; ag implement dealer; Richland Development Corp past president; Richland Airport Authority board; Richland Solid Waste District board; Montana Essential Air Service Task Force; United Bank of Sidney Director; Chamber of Commerce; Montana Air National Guard; served in Senate 1997; wife's name is Karen, they have two daughters.

Walter McNutt

Kenneth Mesaros

Kenneth Mesaros - Cascade, District 25, Republican. Born June 17, 1950 in Great Falls; Cascade High School graduate; bachelor's, education, Montana State University; rancher; former School Board trustee and chairman; Montana Stockgrowers Assn. board; National Cattlemen's Assn. foreign trade committee member; Air National Guard, 1969-75; served in Senate since 1993; wife's name is Becky, they have three sons and one daughter.

Ken Miller - Laurel, District 11, Republican. Born Feb. 1, 1957 in Fort Collins, Colo., grew up on a dairy farm in Colorado and came to Montana in 1975; Fort Collins High School graduate and attended Fort Collins VoTech; roofing and wood manufacturing contractor; served in Senate since 1995; wife's name is Peggy, they have one son and one daughter.



Kenneth Miller

Arnie Mohl

Arnie Mohl - Kalispell, District 39, Republican. Born August 27, 1936 in Beulah, N.D., and came to Montana in 1952; A.A., Allan Hancock College, Santa Barbara, Calif.; paving and concrete construction company owner; U.S. Army veteran; served in Senate since 1995; wife's name is Maggie, they have two sons and three grandchildren.

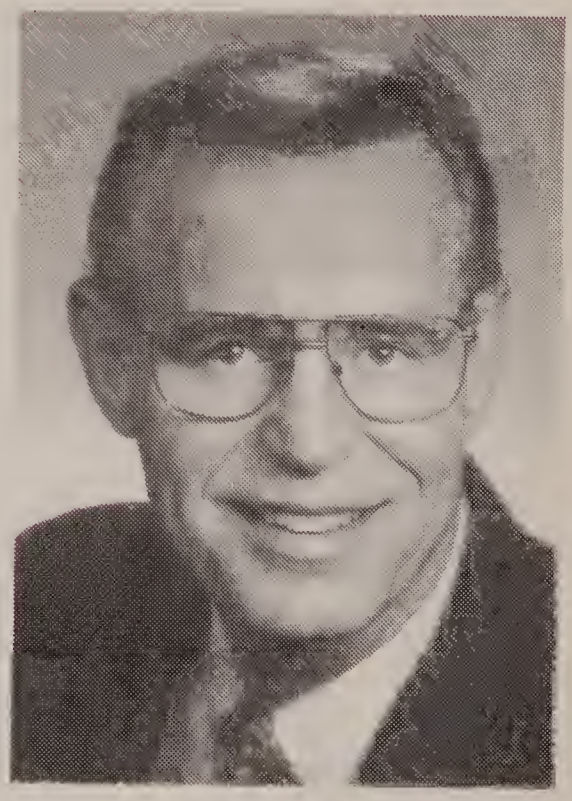
Linda J. Nelson - Medicine Lake, District 49, Democrat. Born June 12, 1942 in Plentywood; Medicine Lake High School graduate; attended college; farmer-legislator; former chair Medicine Lake School Board; 1995 recipient of Gene Donaldson Laureatte Award for education, honorary member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society; served in House 1989-94, in Senate since 1995; husband's name is Roger, they have two daughters and one son.

Linda Nelson

Debbie Shea

Debbie Bowman Shea - Butte, District 18, Democrat. Born June 26, 1951 in Butte; Butte Girls Central High School graduate, attended Eastern Montana College, Montana State University and the University of Montana, B.S. in elementary education and master's in education; eighth grade teacher; served in House 1994-96, in Senate 1997; she has two children

Mike Sprague - Billings, District 6, Republican. Born Jan. 14, 1944 in Cut Bank; Great Falls Central High School graduate; B.S., business, Eastern Montana College; business developer; past first vice chairman of Republican executive board, Republican precinct committeeman; U.S. Navy Vietnam War veteran; served in Senate since 1995; wife's name is Susie, they have two children.

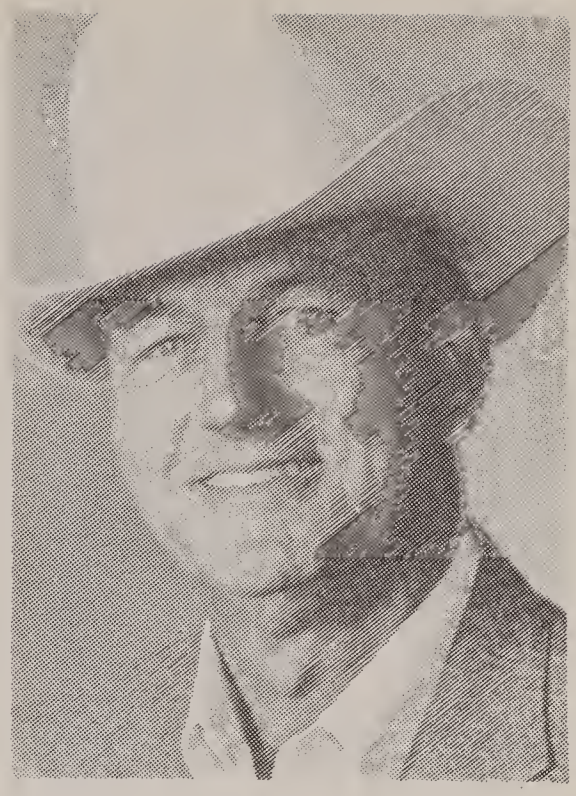


Mike Sprague

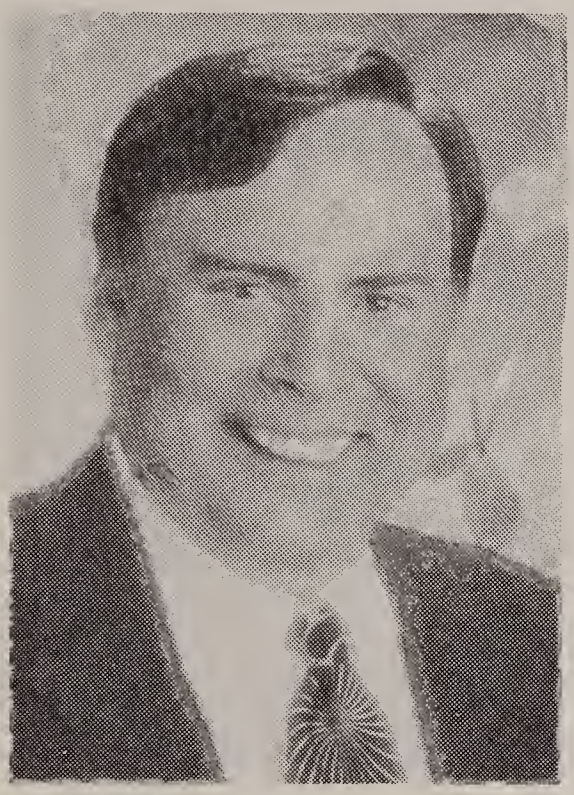
Barry "Spook" Stang

Barry "Spook" Stang - St. Regis, District 36, Democrat. Born Dec. 5, 1950 in Missoula; St. Regis High School graduate; B.A., accounting, Carroll College; retail grocer; Mineral County Tax Appeal Board, 1984-85; Mineral County Housing Authority chairman; served in House 1987-1992, in Senate since 1993; he has a daughter and a son.

Chuck Swysgood - Dillon, District 17, Republican. Born March 30, 1939 in Ohio and moved to Montana in 1980; attended Wooster, Ohio, schools; partner in trucking firm; Montana Vocational Education Advisory Council; former school board trustee; National Rifle Association life member; U.S. Air Force veteran; served in House 1987-92, in Senate since 1993; wife's name is Dorothy, they have two grown children.



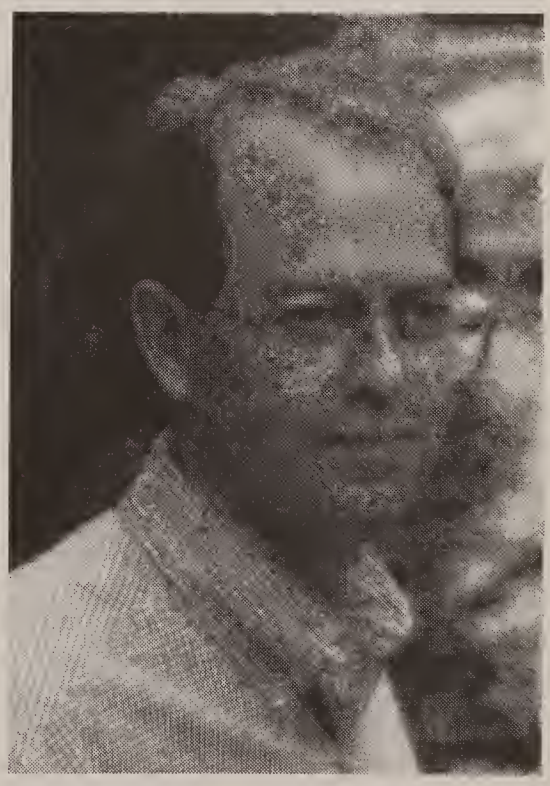
Chuck Swysgood



Mike Taylor

Mike Taylor - Proctor, District 37, Republican. Born June 12, 1941 in Lewistown, attended Hobson schools for eleven years and graduated from Wilmington, Ohio, High School; businessman-rancher; built a large corporation which employed over 400 people in several states and operated a sheep ranch at same time; Lake County Republican past chairman; Rotary, Elks and Dayton Presbyterian Church member; Army National Guard; served in Senate 1997; wife's name is Janna, they have two children.

Fred Thomas - Stevensville, District 31, Republican. Born June 27, 1958 in Hamilton; Stevensville High graduate; B.S. business finance, Montana State University; insurance-business; Stevensville School Board 1982-84; American Legislative Exchange Council former state chairman; MSU student body president, 1979; Professional Insurance Agents of Montana past president; served in House 1985-92, in Senate 1997; wife's name is Suzzie, they have three sons.



Fred Thomas

Daryl Toews

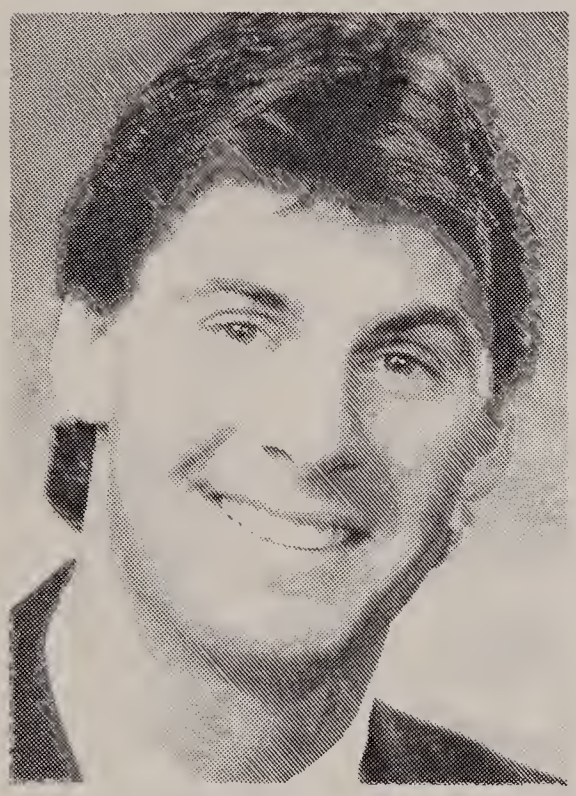
Daryl Toews - Lustre, District 48, Republican. Born May 24, 1949 in Glasgow; Lustre Christian High School graduate; attended Tabor College and Montana State University; realtor-farmer; School Board trustee, 9 years; Valley County Development Council and Chamber of Commerce member; Lustre Community Club chairman; served in Senate since 1993; wife's name is Jean, they have three daughters.

Fred Van Valkenburg - Missoula, District 32, Democrat. Born May 3, 1948 in Denver and moved to Billings in 1957; Billings Central High School graduate, B.A, business administration, Gonzaga University; J.D., University of Montana; attorney; served in Senate since 1979; majority leader, 1985-86 and 1991-92; Democratic floor leader, 1987-88; Senate president, 1993-94; Dean of Senate Democrats; wife's name is Carol, they have a son and a daughter.

Fred Van Valkenburg

Mignon Waterman - Helena, District 26, Democrat. Born Oct. 13, 1944 in Billings; Billings West High graduate; attended University of Montana; legislator-community activist; Helena School Board trustee, 12 years; Montana School Boards Assn. president, 1990; Project Excellence Implementation chair; Revenue Oversight Committee, Postsecondary Policy and Budget Committee, Governor's Work Force Preparation Coordinating Council, School to Work Advisory Council; served in Senate since 1991; husband's name is Ron, they have two sons.

Mignon Waterman



Bill Wilson

Bill Wilson - Great Falls, District 22, Democrat. Born March 28, 1961 in Great Falls; C.M. Russell High School graduate; attended University of Montana and College of Great Falls; Burlington Northern Santa Fe locomotive engineer; BLE State Board member;Montana Boating Advisory Council; served in Senate since 1993, Senate Labor Committee vice chairman, 1993-94; family includes his wife, Robin, and Brittany .

Senate Committee Leadership

Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation
Sen. Ken Mesaros, chairman
Sen. Ric Holden, vice chairman

Bills and Journals
Sen. Ken Miller, chairman
Sen. Daryl Toews, vice chairman

Business and Industry
Sen. John Hertel, chairman
Sen. Steve Benedict, vice chairman

Committee on Committees
Sen. Tom Beck, chairman
Sen.Gerry Devlin, vice chairman

Education, Cultural Resources
Sen. Daryl Toews, chairman
Sen. Casey Emerson, vice chairman

Finance and Claims
Sen. Chuck Swysgood, chairman
Sen. Tom Keating, vice chairman

Ethics
Sen. Al Bishop, chairman
Sen. Bruce Crippen, vice chairman

Fish and Game
Sen. Al Bishop, chairman
Sen. Loren Jenkins, vice chairman

Highways and Transportation
Sen. Arnie Mohl, chairman
Sen. Mack Cole, vice chair

Judiciary
Sen. Bruce Crippen, chairman
Sen. Al Bishop, vice chairman

Labor and Employment Relations
Sen. Tom Keating, chairman
Sen. Jim Burnett, vice chairman

Legislative Administration
Sen. Mike Foster, chairman
Sen. Chuck Swysgood, vice chairman

Local Government
Sen. Tom Beck, chairman
Sen. Mike Sprague, vice chairman

Natural Resources
Sen. Lorents Grosfield, chairman
Sen. Bill Crismore, vice chairman

Public Health, Welfare, Safety
Sen. Steve Benedict, chairman
Sen. Jim Burnett, vice chairman

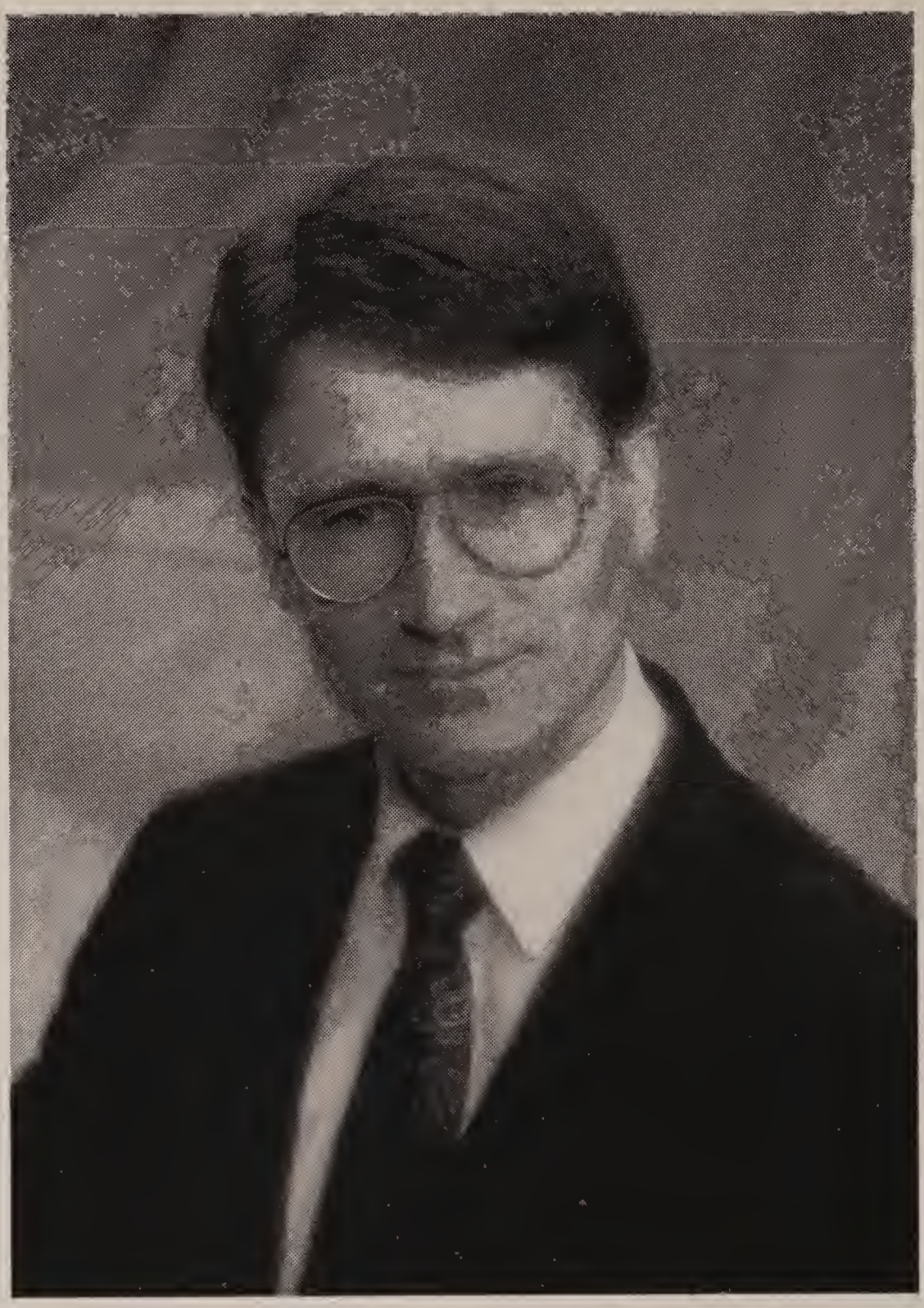
Rules
Sen. John Harp, chairman
Sen. Gary Aklestad, vice chairman

State Administration
Sen. Don Hargrove, chairman
Sen. Ken Mesaros, vice chairman

Taxation
Sen. Gerry Devlin, chairman
Sen. Mike Foster, vice chairman

The House

Fifty-fifth Assembly



JOHN MERCER

Speaker of the House of Representatives

John Mercer, Polson, District 74, Republican. Born Jan. 21, 1957 in Missoula, he attended Missoula and Polson schools, graduating from Polson High School in 1975. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in business from the University of Montana, Missoula, in 1979 and a juris doctor from Northwestern University in Chicago in 1982. The same year he went into private practice as an attorney in Polson. First elected in 1984, Mercer is currently serving his seventh term in the Montana House of Representatives. He was the Minority Whip in 1989-90, Minority Leader in 1991-92 and is in his third term as Speaker of the House , the position he was first elected to in 1993 . His wife Tina is a physical therapist , and they have a son, Thomas.

Larry Grinde -- Lewistown, District 94, Republican. Born June 25, 1948 in Lewistown; Fergus County High School graduate, attended Montana State University and the University of Wyoming; rancher; Fergus County Republican Central Committee past chairman; served in House since 1987; minority whip, 1991-92; majority leader since 1993; he has two children.

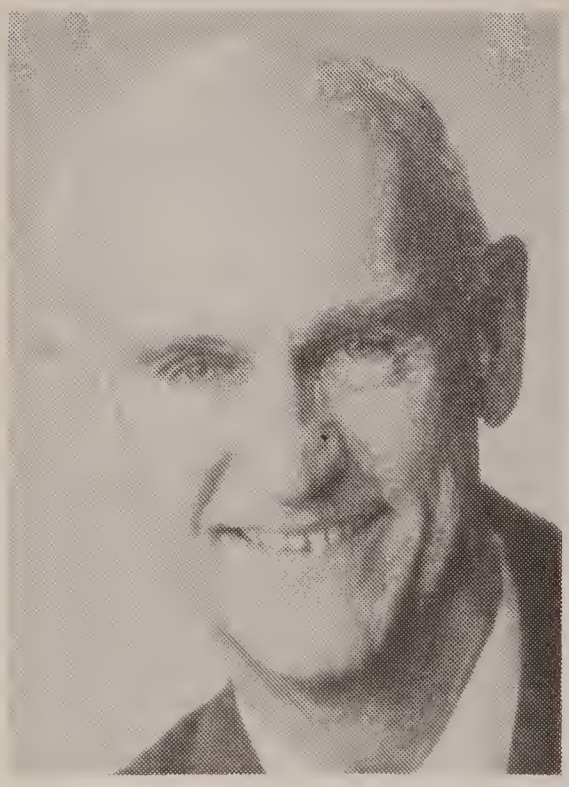
Larry Grinde
Majority Leader

Marian W. Hanson
Speaker Pro Tempore

Marian W. Hanson - Ashland, District 1, Republican. Born Jan. 17, 1933 in Santa Maria, California, and came to Montana in 1951; Custer County High School graduate; rancher; Local Government Study Commission county member; served in House since 1983, Dean of House Republicans, Speaker of the House pro tempore since 1993; husband's name is Darrel, they have two sons and two daughters.

Vicki Cocchiarella - Missoula, District 64, Democrat. Born Dec. 19, 1949 in Livingston; Missoula Hellgate High graduate; B.A., M.A. University of Montana; self-employed consultant; MPEA past board member; University of Montana MPEA bargaining unit past president; served in House since 1989; Environmental Quality Council since 1993, vice chair; 1995-96; Interim Child and Family Committee, 1995-96; minority leader, 1997-98; husband's name is Larry, they have two children.

Vicki Cocchiarella
Minority Leader



Darrel Adams

Darrel Adams - Columbia Falls, District 84, Republican. Born October 9, 1939 in Hillsboro, Oregon, and graduated from Hillsboro High; came to Montana in 1989; farmer and construction-related business; U.S. Army veteran; served in House 1997; wife's name is Lorena, they have seven children.

Chris Ahner - Helena, District 51, Republican. Born June 7, 1947 in Whitefish; Flathead High School graduate, attended Flathead Valley Community College, Montana State University and Miles Community College; homemaker and mother; served in House since 1995, Judiciary, Human Services and Aging, and Local Government committees; husband's name is Mark, they have four children, two daughters-in law and two grandchildren.

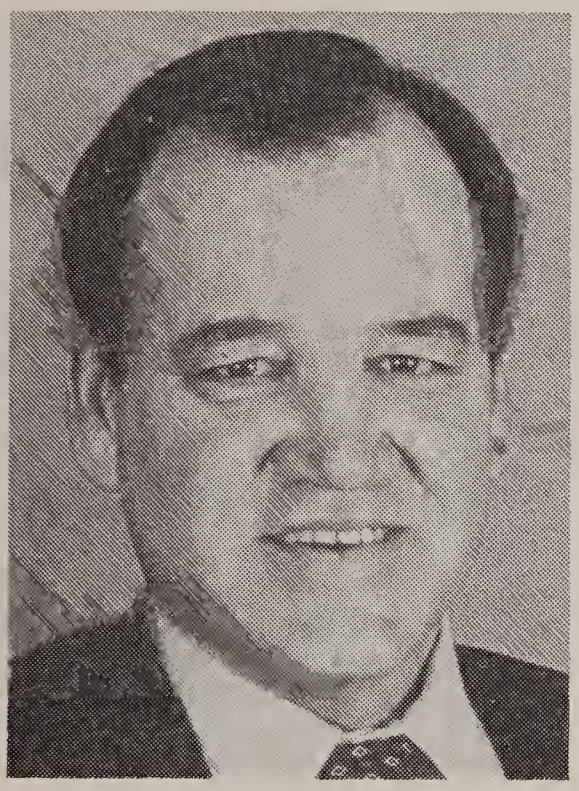
Chris Ahner

Shiell W. Anderson

Shiell W. Anderson - Livingston, District 25, Republican. Born Dec. 29, 1961 in Bozeman; Clyde Park High School graduate; B.A., political science, minor, business finance, Montana State University; J.D., University of Montana; rancher; served in House since 1993; wife's name is Kendra, they have a son Race.

Peggy Arnott - Billings, District 20, Republican. Born Oct. 18, 1953 in Great Falls; Hobson High School graduate; B.S., home economics, Montana State University, M.Ed. in school administration, Montana State University, M.Ed. in school counseling, Eastern Montana College; teacher; Montana Vocational Teacher Association board member; served in House since 1995; single.

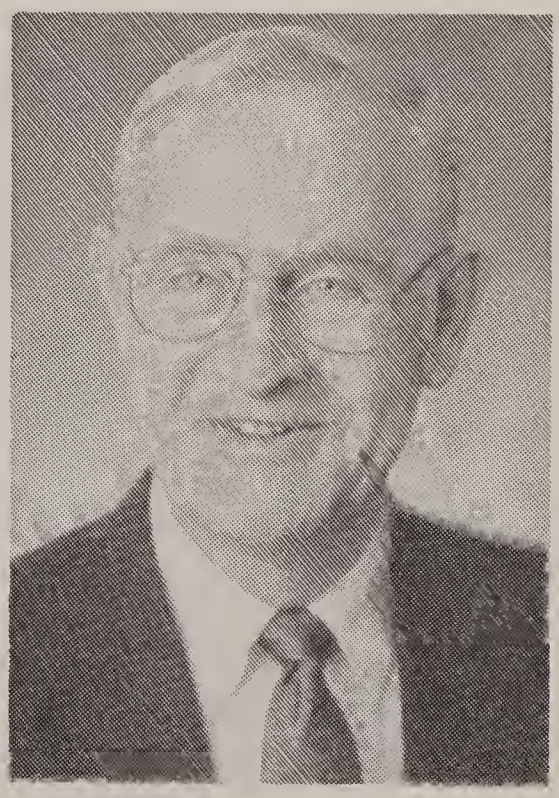
Peggy Arnott



Paul Bankhead

Paul Bankhead - Heron, District 72, Republican. Born July 19, 1950 in Livermore, Calif., came to Montana in 1973; Riverbank, Calif., High graduate, A.A. degree, real estate, Modesto, Calif., Community College; farmer-author; Montana Board of Housing secretary; State Housing Task Force vice chairman; Sanders County Republican state committeeman, past chairman; Northwest Montana Pork Producers Council past president; Sanders County Fair board; Heron School Board chairman; church board member; served in House 1997; wife's name is Joyce, they have four daughters and a son.

Joe Barnett - Belgrade, District 32, Republican. Born August 4, 1929 in Manhattan; Manhattan High School graduate; B.S., health and physical education, M.Ed., Montana State University; retired Bozeman Senior High American History teacher; beekeeper; U.S. Air Force veteran; served in House since 1991; wife's name is Janelle, they have two sons and one daughter.



Joe Barnett

Beverly Barnhart

Beverly Barnhart - Bozeman, District 29, Democrat. Born Oct. 6, 1929 in Denver and came to Montana in 1974; attended Colorado State University and Montana State University, B.A. in English and fine arts, M.A. in adult education; consultant; served in House since 1991; she has four daughters and a son.

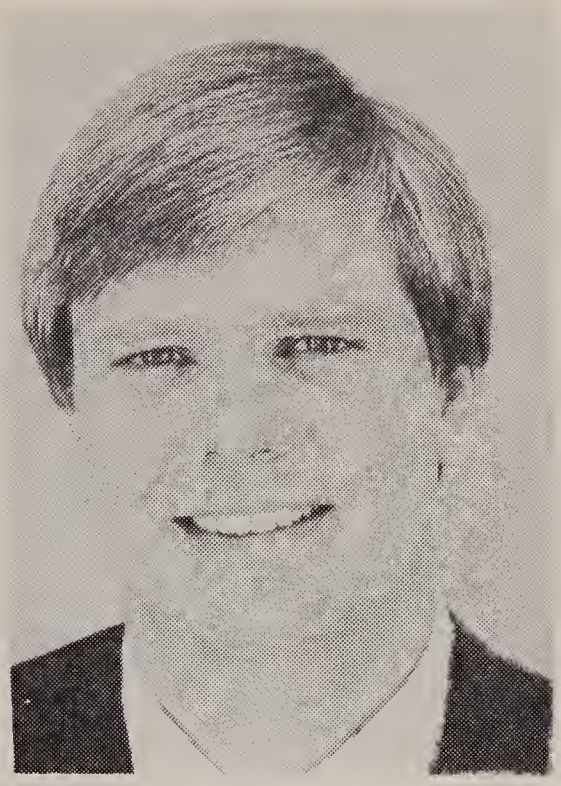
Haley Beaudry - Butte, District 35, Republican. Born December 30, 1946 in Butte; Butte High graduate; B.S. mining engineering and B.S. math, Montana Tech; owner, engineering firm; Butte Chamber of Commerce president; Montana Coal Board; Headwaters RC&D Big Game committee; Small Business Development Centers Board; Montana Republican Party Executive Committee; Butte Business Development Coordinating Council; served in House 1997; wife's name is Elizabeth, they have three daughters.

Haley Beaudry

Ellen Bergman

Ellen Bergman - Miles City, District 4, Republican. Born March 19, 1942 in Lincoln, Nebraska and came to Montana in 1976; cosmetologist and housewife; served in House since 1993; husband's name is Paul, they have four sons.

Ernest Bergsagel - Malta, District 95, Republican. Born March 10, 1955 in Malta; Malta High School graduate; attended business college; farmer; Big Flat Electric Coop director, nine years, secretary, eight years; served in House since 1991; single.

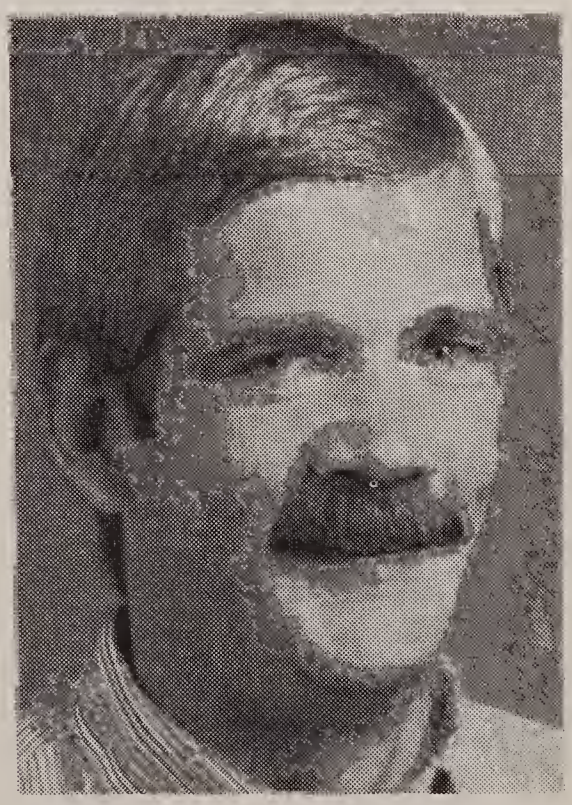


Ernest Bergsagel

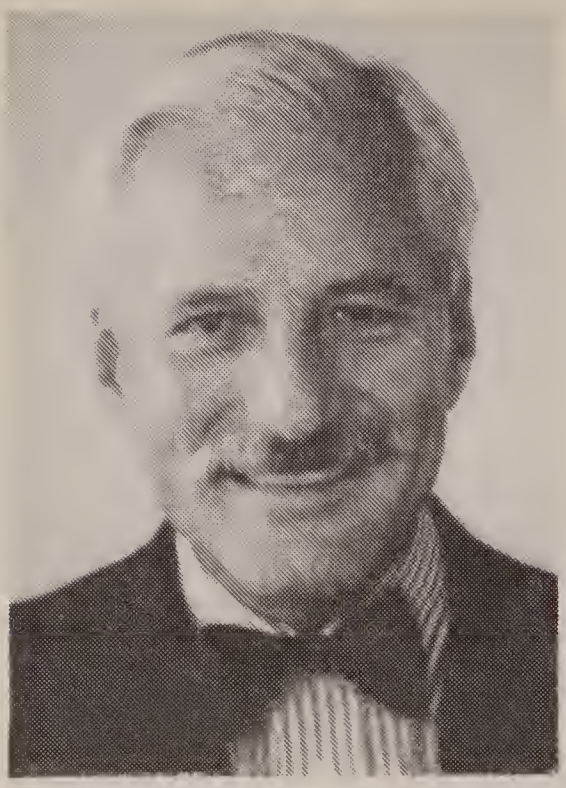
Rod Bitney

Rod Bitney - Kalispell, District 77, Republican. Born April 14, 1952 in Kalispell; Flathead High graduate; B.S. in aerospace, Central Washington University; director of marketing and real estate salesman for Village Green Golf Course; licensed real estate broker; airline transport rating as a pilot; U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard pilot; served in House 1997; wife's name is Patty, they have a daughter and a son.

William E. Boharski - Kalispell, District 79, Republican. Born Sept. 8, 1961 in Chicago and moved to Montana in 1966; Flathead High School honors graduate; B.S., mechanical engineering, Montana State University; mechanical engineer; served in House since 1989; single.



William E. Boharski

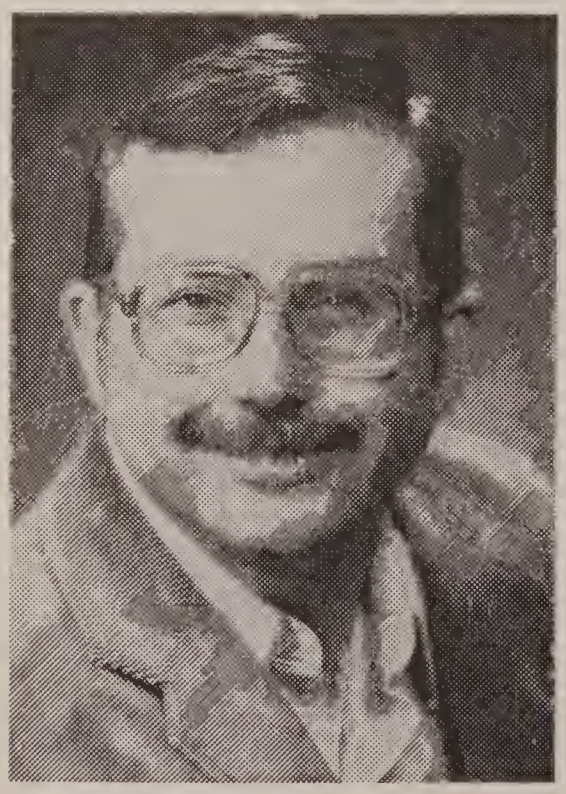


John C. Bohlinger

John C. Bohlinger - Billings, District 14, Republican. Born April 21, 1936 in Bozeman; Billings Senior High graduate, B.S.,University of Montana; retired small businessman; past president of Yellowstone Arts Center, Billings Symphony Society, MSU-Billings Foundation and St. Vincent dePaul Society; director of First Interstate Bank West and Yellowstone Treatment Center; member of Billings Rotary Club and St Patrick's Catholic Church; served in House since 1993; wife's name is Bette J., they have 3 sons, 3 daughters and 13 grandchildren.

Sylvia Bookout-Rienecke - Alberton, District 71, Republican. Born November 15, 1934 in Argonia, Kansas; came to Montana in 1989; Wichita East High graduate; B.A. literature, Xavier College, Kansas City; retired; Mineral County Help Line for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; Mineral Community Hospital Board trustee; Montana Developmental Disabled Region 5 board member; United Methodist Church, Alberton, trustee; served in House 1997; husband's name is Norman Rienecke, she has two grown children.

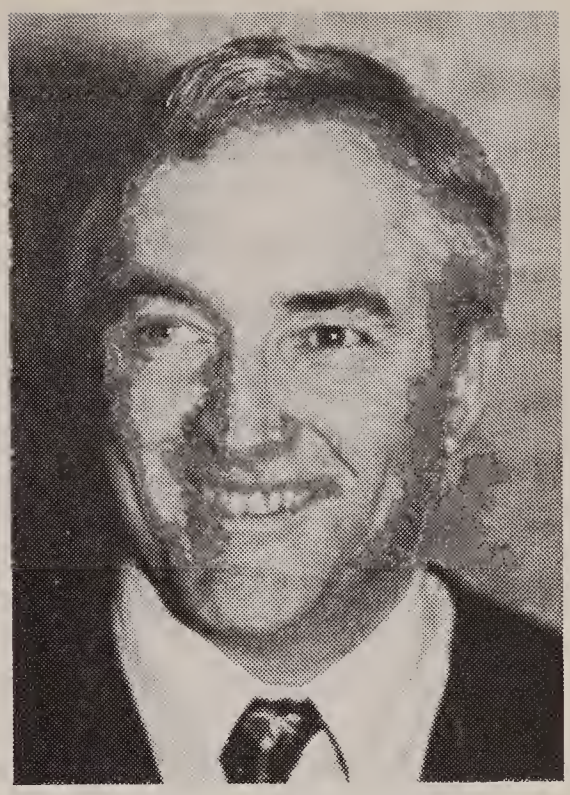
Sylvia Bookout-Rienecke



Matt Brainard

Matt Brainard - Florence, District 62, Republican. Born Feb. 15, 1948 in Painesville, Ohio, and moved to Montana permanently in 1969; attended the University of Idaho, B.S. in forestry, University of Montana; gunsmith; served in U.S. Army; served in House since 1995; wife's name is Penny, they have three children.

Bill Carey - Missoula, District 67, Democrat. Born Sept. 10, 1945 in St. Louis, Mo., and settled in Montana in 1983; Servite High School, Anaheim, Calif., graduate; B.A. political science, University of California, Riverside; Missoula Food Bank director; Missoula Housing Authority; Peace Corps Volunteer; served in House since 1995; he has one son and one daughter.

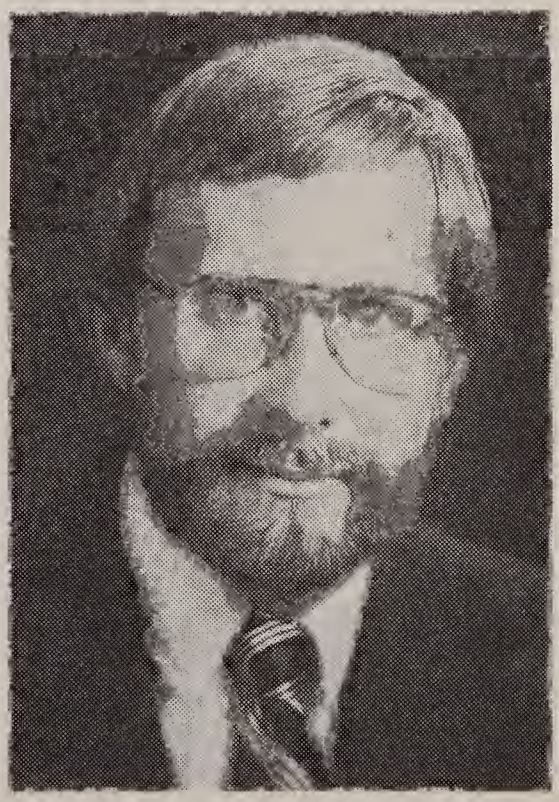


Bill Carey

Robert C. Clark

Bob Clark - Ryegate, District 8, Republican. Born Jan. 15, 1942 in Anaconda; Anaconda High School graduate; retired Montana Highway Patrolman and part-time special deputy for U.S. Marshal; currently D.A.R.E. instructor in six central Montana counties; Ryegate School Board trustee, nine years; served in House since 1989, Highways and Transportation Committee chairman, 1993, Judiciary Committee chairman, 1995; wife's name is Nancy, they have two daughters.

John Cobb - Augusta, District 50, Republican. Born Jan. 22, 1954 in Montana; attended Shahuck High School; B.A., economics, B.A., public administration, Montana State University; law degree, University of Montana; attorney-rancher; served in House since 1985, wife's name is Cheryl, and they have two children.



John Cobb

Aubyn Curtiss

Aubyn Curtiss - Fortine, District 81, Republican. Born July 1, 1925 in Park City; Lincoln County High School graduate, attended the University of California at Los Angeles; tree buyer-broker; Lincoln County GOP chairman; Montana GOP past chairman; Montana's commissioner on White House Presidential Scholar's Commission; Lincoln County Planning Board past chairman; served in House 1977-83 and since 1995; husband's name is David, they have three children.

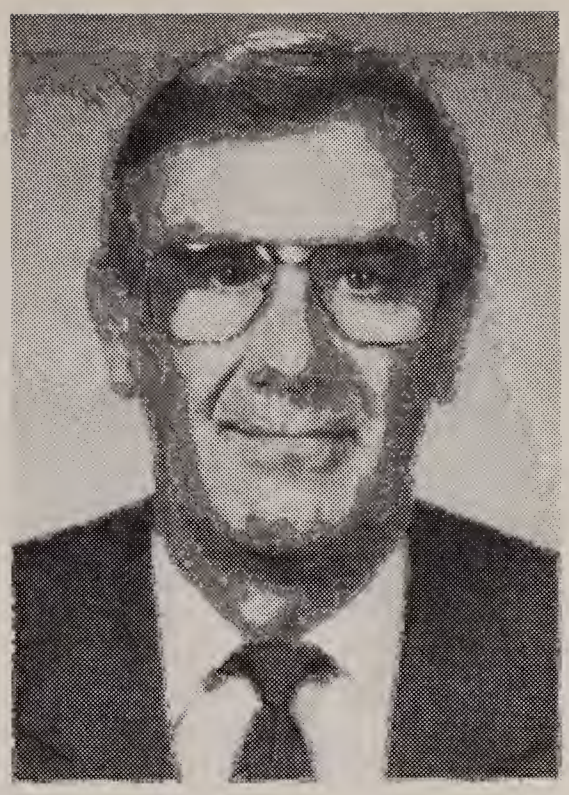
Roger DeBruycker - Floweree, District 89, Republican. Born June 29, 1936 in Great Falls; Dutton High School graduate; farmer; Fort Benton High School Board trustee, three years; Chouteau County ASCS Committee, three years; Chouteau County Republican Central Committee former chairman; Montana Air National Guard; served in House since 1989; wife's name is Myrl, they have two sons.

Roger DeBruycker

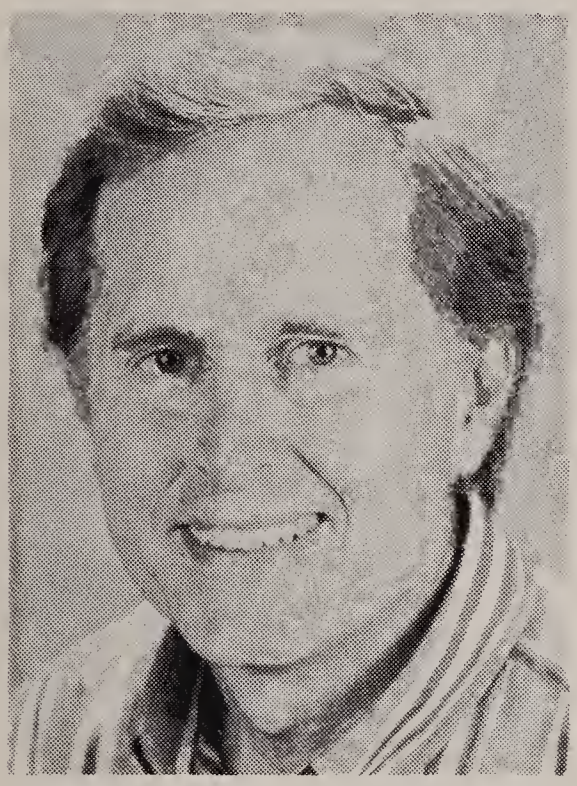
Matt Denny

Matt Denny - Missoula, District 63, Republican. Born Aug. 7, 1963 in Long Beach, Calif., came to Montana in 1990; B.S.in accounting, University of Southern California; accountant and software developer; former Republican precinct committeeman; served in House since 1995; wife's name is Roslyn, they have three children.

Charles R. Devaney - Plentywood, District 97, Republican. Born Nov. 16, 1939 in Glenns Ferry, Idaho, came to Montana in 1969; Glenns Ferry High School graduate; B.S. in finance, University of Idaho; banker; Plentywood City Council, 1982-92, Plentywood mayor, 1992-95; veteran of four years in U.S. Army, discharged as captain; served in House since 1995; wife's name is Beverly, they have three children.



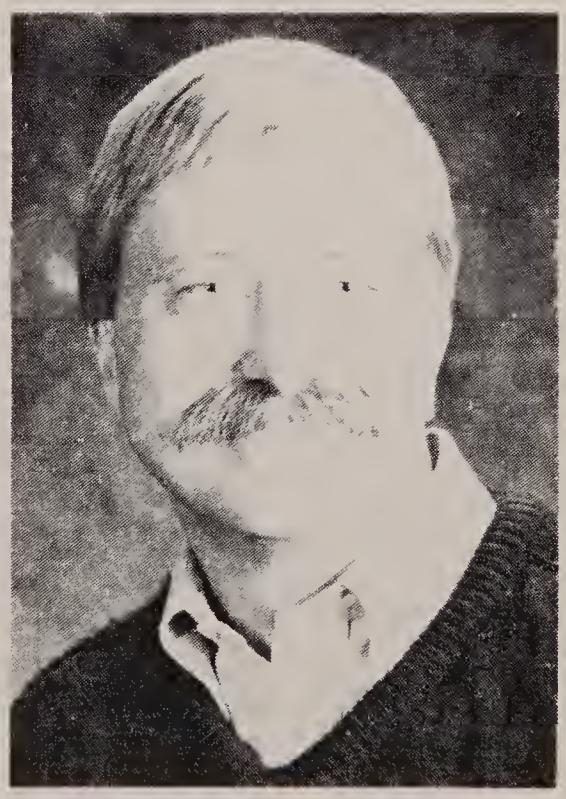
Charles Devaney



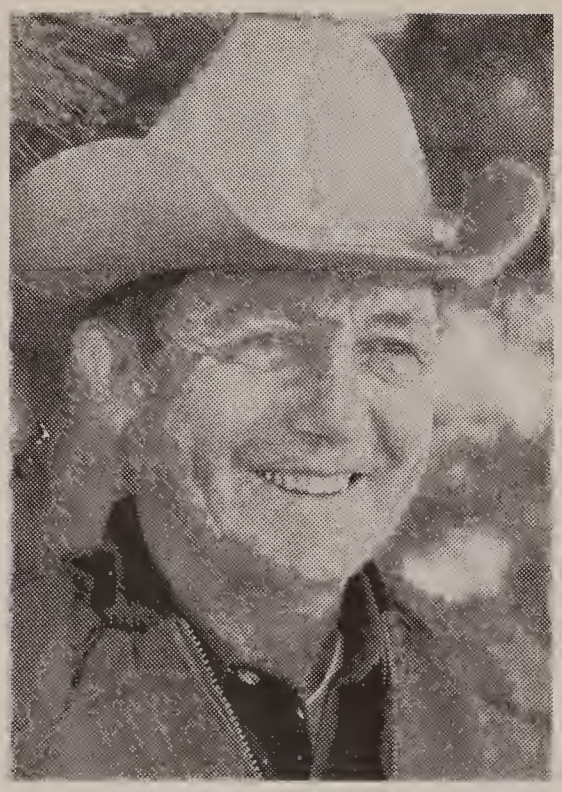
Tim Dowell
Minority Whip

Tim Dowell - Kalispell, District 78, Democrat. Born August 9, 1947 in Chicago and came to Montana in 1972; Main Township H.S., DesPlaines, Ill., graduate; B.S., biology, Western Illinois University; graduate work, University of Montana; teacher; active in United Way, Big Brothers and Sisters and youth athletics; served in House 1991-94 and 1997; minority whip, 1997; wife's name is Bonnie, they have a daughter and a son.

Jon Ellingson - Missoula, District 65, Democrat. Born Aug. 21, 1948 in Rochester, N.Y., came to Montana in 1970; graduate of Pittsford, N.Y., High School, B.A., Harvard University, M.A., University of Montana, and J.D., University of California; attorney; active in Missoula community and political organizations since 1975; served in House since 1995; wife's name is Kathy, he has three sons.



Jon Ellingson



Alvin Ellis, Jr.

Alvin Ellis - Red Lodge, District 23, Republican. Born July 11, 1936 in Red Lodge; B.S., animal sciences; rancher; school board trustee; served six months active duty and eight years reserve in U.S. armed forces, second lieutenant; served in House since 1991; education committee vice chairman, 1993; wife's name is Maureen, they have a daughter and three sons.

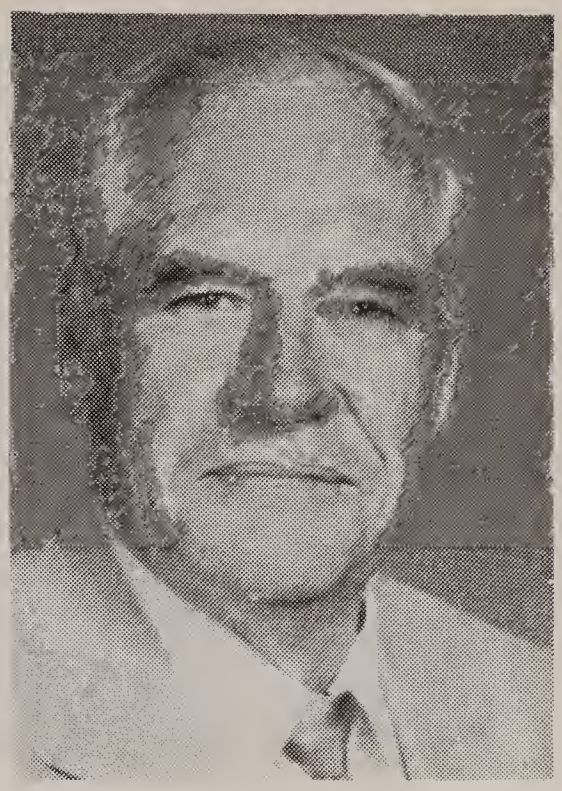
David Ewer - Helena, District 53, Democrat. Born July 29, 1954 on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and came to Montana in 1985; B.A., economics, Northeastern University; M.A., city and regional planning, Harvard University; Montana Board of Investments senior bond program officer; served in House since 1993; wife's name is Gail Speck, they have two daughters.

David Ewer

Gary Feland

Gary Feland - Shelby, District 88, Republican. Born Dec. 8, 1939 in Westhope, North Dakota and came to Montana in 1958; oil producer; served in House since 1991; wife's name is Judy, they have three sons and three daughters.

Patrick Galvin - Great Falls, District 48, Democrat. Born July 1, 1926 in Great Falls; Butte High School graduate; attended College of Great Falls; retired railroad engineer; union officer, 22 years; U.S. Marine Corps World War II combat veteran; served in House since 1991; wife's name is Marie, they have a son and three daughters.



Patrick Galvin

Kim Gillan

Kim Gillan - Billings, District 11, Democrat. Born December 10, 1951 in El Cerrito, Calif., and came to Montana in 1992; Presentation High School graduate; B.A., University of California Los Angeles; masters in regional planning, Cornell University; graduate work at George Washington University; business consultant; City of Billings Parks and Recreation Board; Heights Task Force; Alkali Creek PTA; Montana State PTA child safety chair; served in House 1997; husband's name is Bill, they have a son and a daughter.

Edward J. Grady - Canyon Creek, District 55, Republican. Born August 23, 1933 in Helena; attended Helena schools; rancher; Canyon Creek School Board trustee, 20 years; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Sportsman Award; U.S. Army veteran; served in House since 1985; wife's name is Eileen, they have three children.

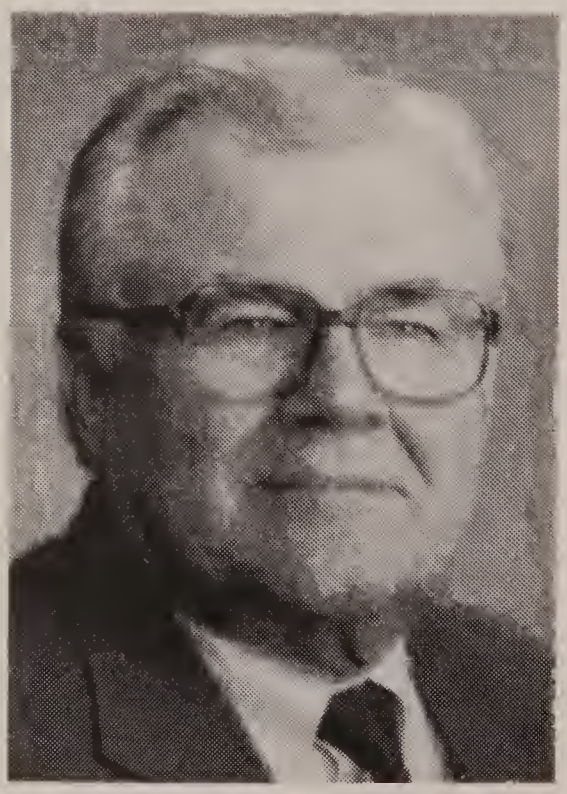
Edward J. Grady

Duane Grimes

Duane Grimes - Clancy, District 39, Republican. Born Sept. 17, 1957 in Spokane and came to Montana the same year; Harrison High School graduate; attended Colorado Aero Tech; B.A. and post graduate work in theology, Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina; personnel officer, Montana Department of Revenue; pilot and aircraft inspector; served in House since 1993; wife's name is Connie, they have two sons.

Antoinette R. (Toni) Hagener - Havre, District 90, Democrat. Born Nov. 22, 1926 in Buffalo, N.Y., came to Montana in 1949; attended Colorado Springs High School, A.B., University of Denver; Hill County Commissioner, 1981-89, City of Havre Study Commission, 1974-76, School District Board of Trustees for seven years; served in House since 1995; widow, she has two sons, one daughter and five grandchildren.

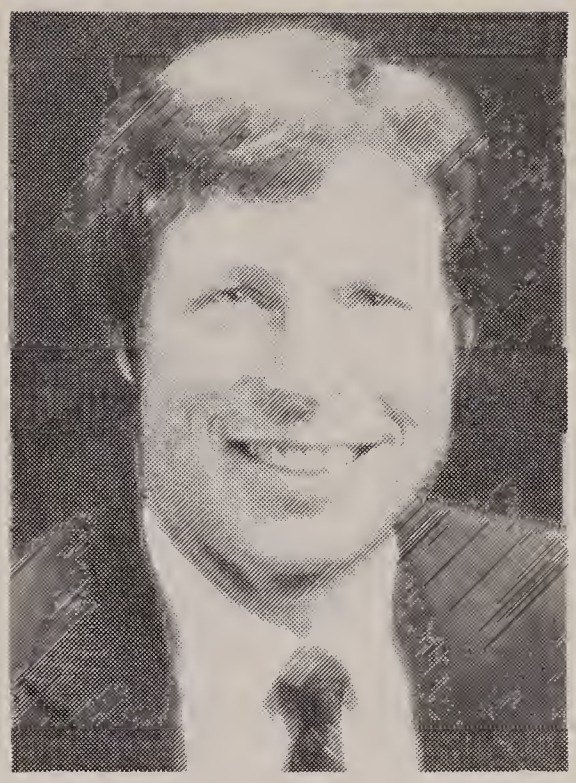
Antoinette Hagener



Sonny Hanson

Sonny Hanson - Billings, District 9, Republican. Born June 18, 1926 in Great Falls; B.S., electrical engineering, Montana State University; consulting engineer; U.S. Navy veteran, WWII and Korean Conflict; served in House since 1991; wife's name is Joyce, they have twin sons and a daughter.

Hal Harper - Helena, District 52, Democrat. Born Nov. 3, 1948 in Nashville, Tennessee, and came to Montana in 1954; Helena High graduate; B.S., philosophy, University of Montana; residential construction; served in House 1973-74 and since 1977; Environmental Quality Council, 1983-89; Democratic floor leader, 1985-86; majority leader, 1989-90; Speaker of the House, 1991-92; Water Policy Committee chairman; wife's name is Janet.



Hal Harper

Dan Harrington

Dan W. Harrington - Butte, District 38, Democrat. Born Feb. 12, 1938 in Butte; attended Montana Tech; graduate, Western Montana College; teacher; Montana Constitutional Convention delegate, 1971-72; Silver Bow County Democratic chairman, 1971-present; served in House since 1977, majority whip, 1983-84; minority whip,1995-96; wife's name is Pat, they have two sons and a daughter.

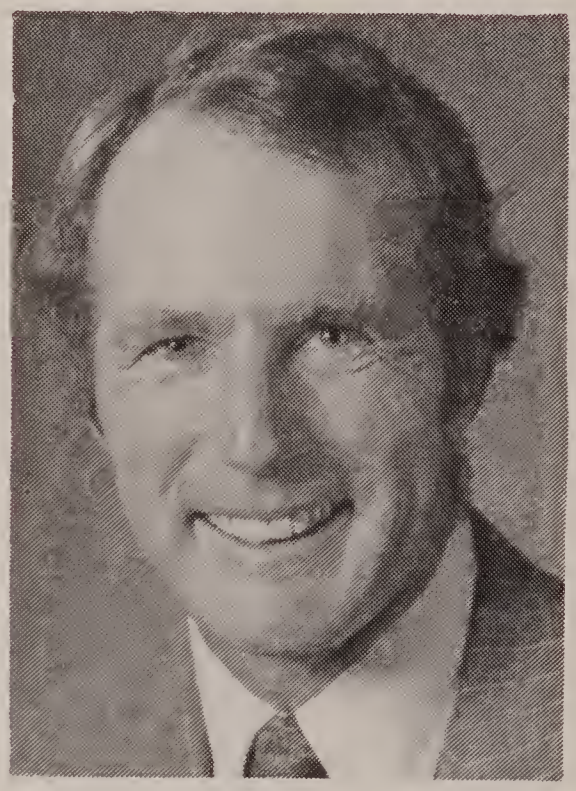
Harriet Hayne - Dupuyer, District 86, Republican. Born Sept. 11, 1922 on Puget Island, Washington, and came to Montana in 1953; attended Cathlamet, Washington, Schools, Healds College, San Francisco, and Washington State University; rancher-homemaker; U.S. Marine Corps World War II Women's Reserves; served in House 1979-80 and since 1985; husband's name is Jack, they have three daughters and one son.

Harriet Hayne

George Heavy Runner

George Heavy Runner - Browning, District 85, Democrat. Born Dec. 15, 1955 in Browning; AA degree from Blackfeet Community College; education-telecommunications technician; Browning School Board trustee, three and a half years; Blackfeet Head Start board member; Big Sky Girl Scout Council; served in House since 1995; wife's name is Rena, they have four children.

Chase Hibbard - Helena, District 54, Republican. Born June 22, 1948 in St. Paul and came to Montana as an infant; Helena High graduate; B.A., political science, Amherst College; graduate work, University of San Francisco; ranch owner-manager; Montana Taxpayers Assn. chairman; Montana Power board; Helena Industries board; Shodair Hospital board; Montana Woolgrowers Assn. board; served in House since 1993; wife's name is Anne, they have two sons.



Chase Hibbard

Don Holland

Don S. Holland - Forsyth, District 7, Republican. Born Aug. 4, 1934 in Hardin; Hardin High School graduate; B.S. geology, Montana State University; rancher; Rosebud School Board, 12 years; Rosebud County Planning Board, Rosebud County Tax Appeals Board, Forsyth Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Person of the Year, 1988; U.S. Army, 1954-56; served in House since 1995; wife's name is Gayle, they have one son and one daughter.

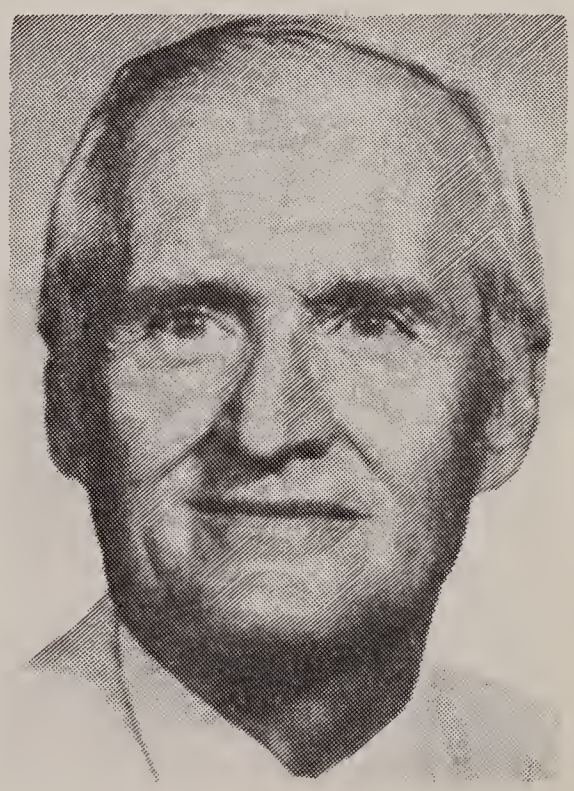
Joan Hurdle - Billings, District 13, Democrat. Born Aug. 21, 1931 in Glendive; Dawson County High School graduate; B.S. in elementary education, and M.S. in special education from Eastern Montana College; administrative endorsement, Montana State University; retired teacher and administrator; served in House since 1995; she has three grown sons.

Joan Hurdle

John Johnson

John Johnson - Glendive, District 2, Democrat. Born Dec. 20, 1922 in Fargo, North Dakota and came to Montana in 1953; Halstad, Minnesota, High School graduate; B.S., B.A., Moorhead State; M.A., University of Wyoming; retired high school principal; Glendive City Government Study Commission former chairman; Outstanding Montanans Committee former chairman; World War II veteran; served in House since 1989; wife's name is Donna, they have two sons and two daughters.

Royal Johnson - Billings, District 10, Republican. Born May 2, 1925 in Hettinger, North Dakota and came to Montana in 1931; Butte High School graduate; B.A., business, University of Montana; graduate work, Wharton School of Finance and Northwestern University; investment management; Billings City Council, 1977-81; U.S. Army Air Force World War II veteran; served in House since 1991; wife's name is Norma, they have one daughter and three sons.



Royal Johnson

Rick Jore

Rick Jore - Ronan, District 73, Republican. Born Dec. 21, 1956 in Ronan; Ronan High School graduate; A.A. business administration, North Idaho College; aqua-culture and president of Montana American Manufacturing Corporation in Ronan; served in since House 1995; wife's name is Nancy, they have five children.

Betty Lou Kasten - Brockway, District 99, Republican. Born April 6, 1938 in Sharon, Penn., and moved to Montana in 1963; Brookfield, Ohio, High School graduate; B.A., botany, Phi Beta Kappa, University of Denver; M.S., ecology, University of Denver; rancher-farmer; Mid-River Telephone Board; Montana Health Systems Agency Eastern Sub-Area Council; served in House since 1989; husband's name is Dave, they have one daughter and one son.

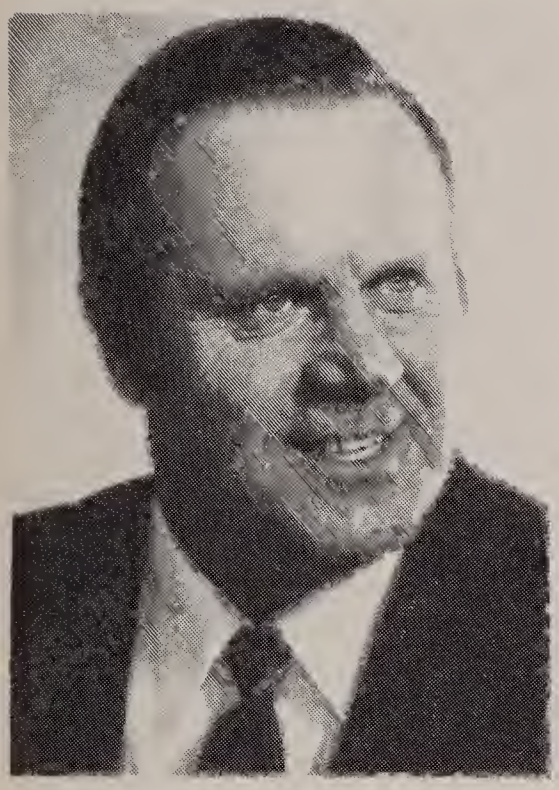
Betty Lou Kasten

Bob Keenan

Bob Keenan - Bigfork, District 75, Republican. Born March 11, 1952 in Salem, Mass.; came to Montana in 1982; Deerfield Academy, Mass., graduate and attended University of Massachusetts; owner of Bigfork Inn; Bigfork School Board trustee and chairman, Department of Corrections Advisory Council; served in House since 1995, Legislative Audit Committee; wife's name is Suzie, they have four children.

Sam L. Kitzenberg - Glasgow, District 96, Republican. Born July 25, 1947 in Williston, N.D.; and came home to Plentywood as an infant; Plentywood High School graduate; B.A. in education, University of Montana; high school English teacher; former Boys State governor and Boys Nation senator, page in Montana House, 1963; served in House since 1995; wife's name is Ronnie, they have two sons and two daughters.

Sam Kitzenberg



Dick Knox

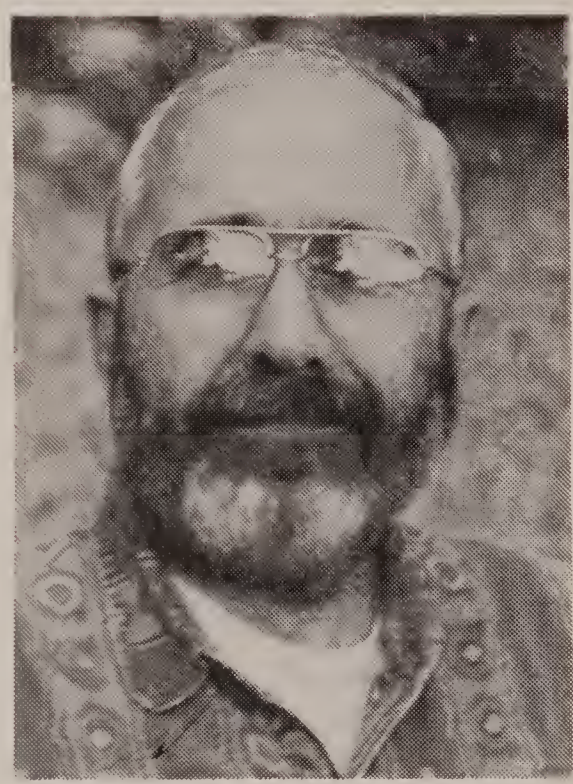
Dick Knox - Winifred, District 93, Republican. Born August 18, 1936 in Denton; Flathead High School graduate; attended Flathead Valley Community College; rancher; Flathead Valley Community College trustee; Missouri Breaks Multiple Use Association president; United Heritage Mutual Life Insurance Co. board member; served in House since 1991; Natural Resources Committee chairman, 1993, 1995; wife's name is Doris, they have two daughters and four sons.

Deb Kottel - Great Falls, District 45, Democrat. Born June 15, 1952 in Indiana; came to Montana in 1987; Riverside-Brookfield High School graduate, attended Loyola University of Chicago, Roosevelt University of Chicago and DePaul College of Law, B.S. and J.D. degrees; college professor, dean of School of Human Services and the College of Professional Studies at University of Great Falls; served in House since 1995; she has one child.

Deb Kottel

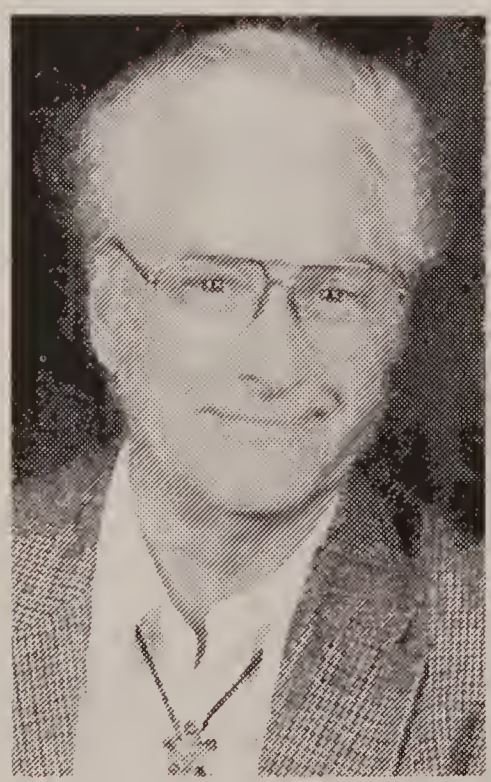
Billie Krenzler

Billie Krenzler - Billings, District 17, Democrat. Born July 18, 1937 in Worden; Billings Senior High graduate; A.A., business, MSU-Billings; human services administrator; Billings City Council, eight years; Billings deputy mayor, two years; United Way Board; Montana Tradeport Board; Deaconess Billings Clinic Health Systems Board; Governor's Advisory Council on Community Services; volunteer for YWCA and Moss Mansion Task Forces; Christ the King Lutheran Chuch member; served in House 1997; husband's name is Albert, they have a son and a daughter.



Bob Lawson

Bob Lawson - Whitefish, District 80, Republican. Born September 24, 1943 in Wichita, Kansas and came to Montana in 1947; Whitefish High graduate; B.A. in secondary education, M.Ed., and doctoral study, University of Montana; retired educator; Whitefish Credit Union Credit Committee chairman; Whitefish Fire Service Area trustee; member of Whitefish Moose Club, Kiwanis, Whitefish Historical Society, Whitefish Chamber Ambassadors and American Legion Post 108; U.S. Army veteran; served in House 1997; wife's name is Dyan, they have two children.

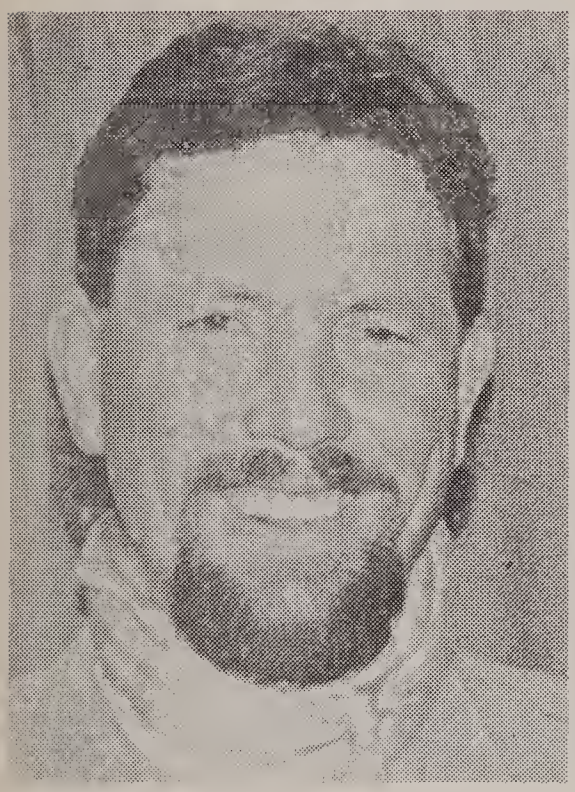


Rod Marshall

Rod Marshall - Bozeman, District 28, Republican. Born June 19, 1920 in Minnesota; came to Montana in 1970; attended St. Olaf and University of Minnesota; retired; served in Air Corp; city commissioner, Park Rapids, Minn., first chairman, Bozeman Parking Commission; served in House since 1995; wife's name is Jean, they have two children.

Gay Ann Masolo - Townsend, District 40, Republican. Born June 24, 1942 in Townsend; Broadwater County High School and Carroll College graduate, M.Ed., Northern Montana College; retired elementary teacher, involved in agriculture; secretary-treasurer of Broadwater Republican Central Committee; served in House since 1995; husband's name is Bob, they have a son.

Gay Ann Masolo



Matt McCann

Matt McCann - Harlem, District 92, Democrat. Born Aug. 22, 1961 in Havre; Harlem High School graduate, attended the University of Montana; rancher; Harlem School Board, 1992-94; SCS Committee, 1984-present; Harlem Ditch Board, 1986-present; served in House since 1995; wife's name is Laura, they have four children.

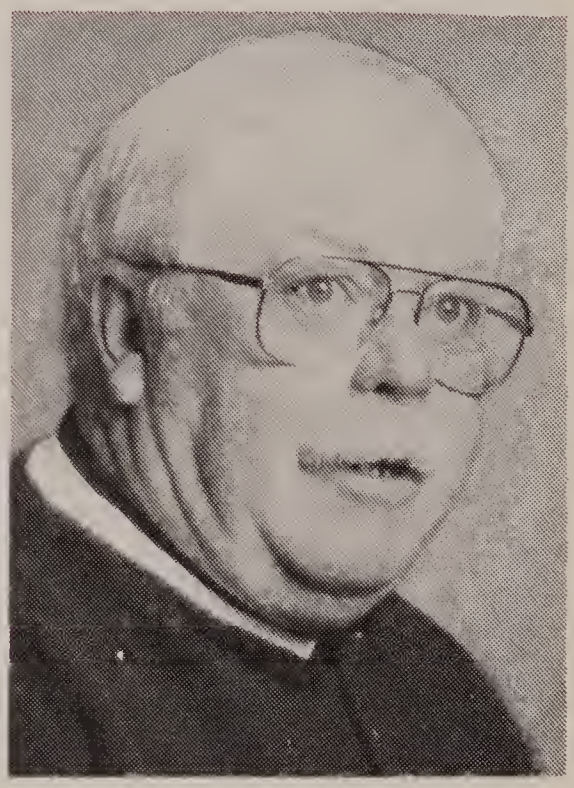
Linda H. McCulloch - Missoula, District 70, Democrat. Born Dec. 21, 1954 in Springfield, Ohio, and came to Montana in 1978; B.S. and master's degrees from the University of Montana; elementary school librarian; served in House since 1995; husband's name is Bill.

Linda McCulloch

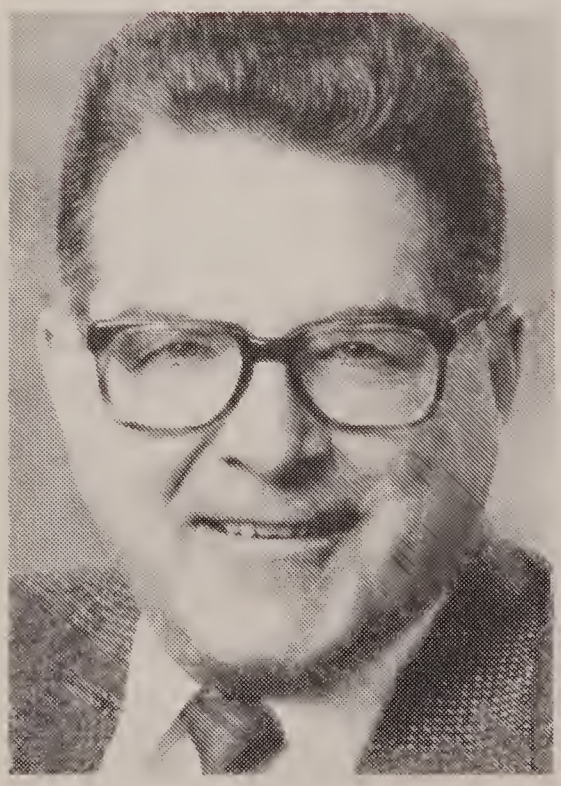
Daniel McGee

Daniel W. McGee - Laurel, District 21, Republican. Born Sept. 30, 1947 in Shreveport, La., and came to Montana in 1974; Natrona County High School, Casper, Wyo., graduate; B.S., geology, Louisiana State University, graduate work at the University of Montana; self employed land surveyor and geologist; served in U.S. Air Force as first lieutenant; served in House since 1995; wife's name is LaRae, they have three daughters.

William "Red" Menahan - Anaconda, District 57, Democrat. Born August 16, 1935 in Anaconda; graduate, Carroll College; M.Ed., Western Montana College; teacher; served in House since 1971; minority whip, 1981; chairman, Legislative Council, 1995; wife's name is Shirley, they have two sons, one daughter and seven grandchildren .



William "Red" Menahan

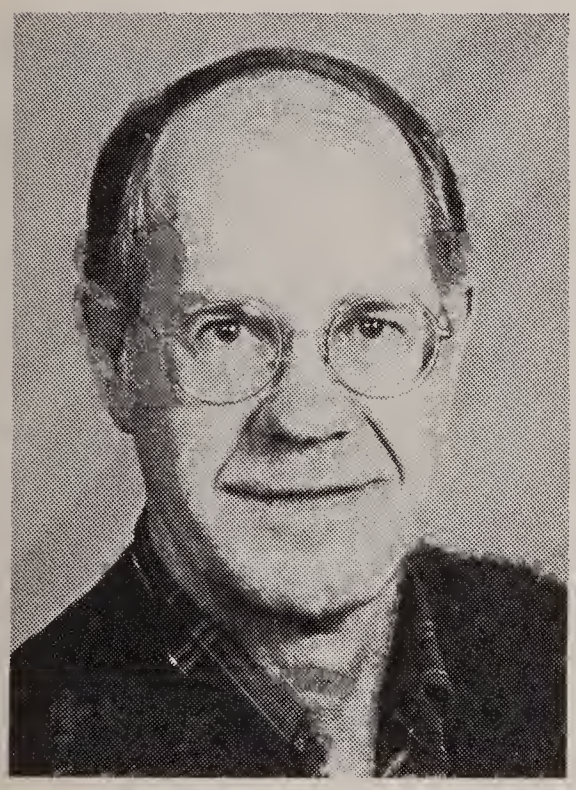


Norman W. Mills

Norman W. Mills - Billings, District 19, Republican. Born July 23, 1924 in Lewiston, Utah, and came to Montana in 1954; B.S., electrical engineering; attended University of Utah, Utah State, MIT; consulting engineer and owner of cable television company; American Institute of Management fellow; National Small Cable Business Assn. board; U.S. Navy veteran; served in House since 1993; widower, he has three sons and a daughter.

Brad Molnar - Laurel, District 22, Republican. Born April 12, 1950 in Walkerton, Indiana and came to Montana in 1968 to study forestry at University of Montana; contractor-grain storage; hobby is hunting; served in House since 1993; wife's name is Denise, they have three children.

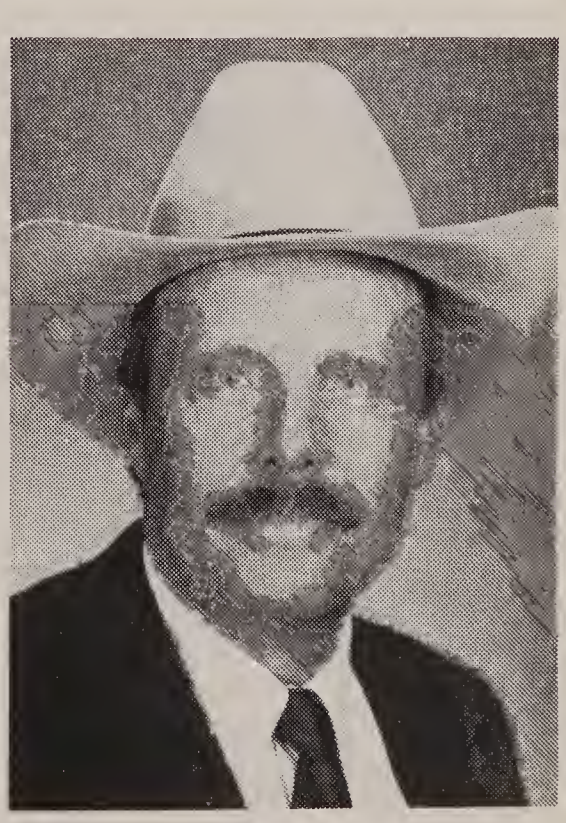
Brad Molnar



Douglas Mood

Doug Mood - Seeley Lake, District 58, Republican. Born November 3, 1943 in Grand Rapids, Minnesota and came to Montana in 1948; Missoula County High graduate; majored in English literature four years at University of Montana; sawmill vice president; Montana Chamber of Commerce member; NFIB member; White House Conference on Small Business, 1995; Site Selection Committee for Women's Prison; served in House 1997; wife's name is Marion, they have four children.

Karl Ohs - Harrison, District 33, Republican. Born Nov. 18, 1946 in Havre; Malta High School graduate, attended Montana State University; rancher; Harrison School Board member, Madison Valley Hospital Foundation Board; served in House since 1995; majority whip 1997-98; he has four children.

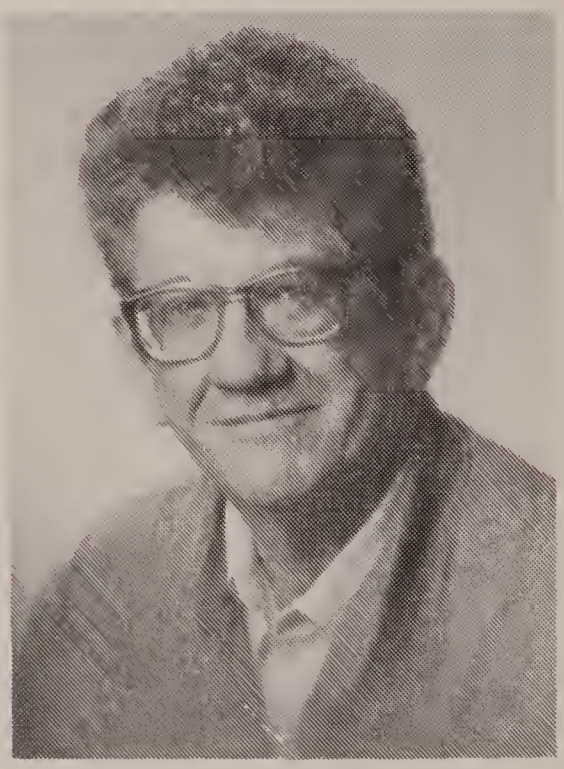


Karl Ohs
Majority Whip

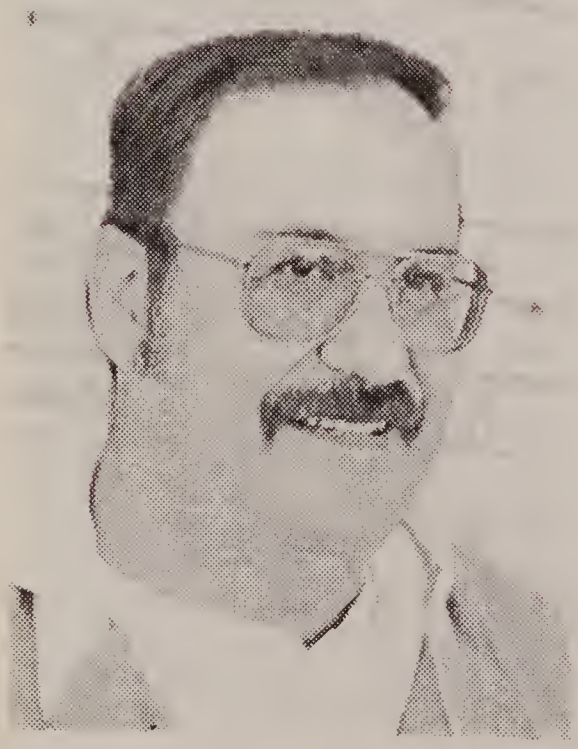
Scott Orr

Scott J. Orr - Libby, District 82, Republican. Born Oct. 8, 1951 in Libby; Libby High School graduate, heavy equipment extension Texas A&M; waste services business owner; U.S. Navy Vietnam veteran; served in House since 1993; wife's name is Rita; they have a son and a daughter.

Robert J. Pavlovich - Butte, District 37, Democrat. Born June 6, 1929 in Butte; attended Butte schools; semi-retired small business owner; U.S. Army veteran; served in House since 1979; Business and Economic Development Committee chairman, 1985 and 1989; wife's name is Kathleen, they have two sons and four daughters.



Robert J. Pavlovich

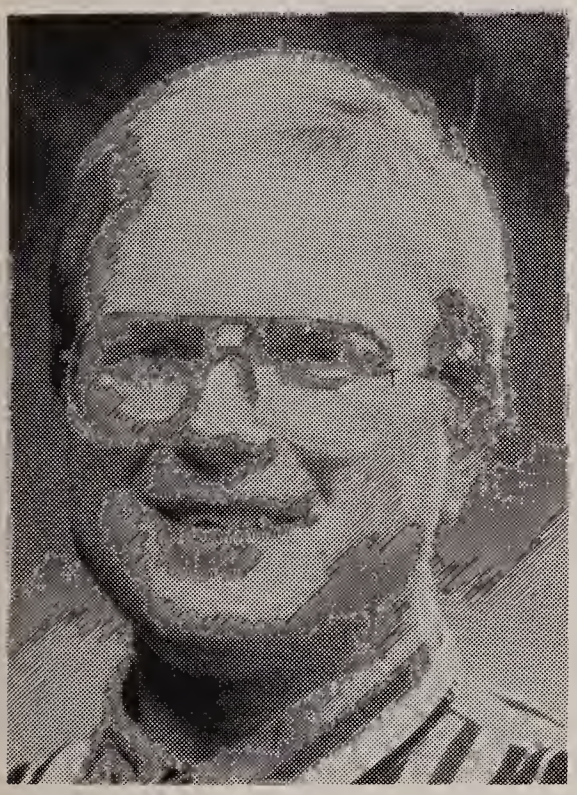


Gerald Pease

Gerald Pease - Lodge Grass, District 6, Democrat. Born July 21, 1954 in Hardin; Lodge Grass High graduate; two-year certificate in heavy equipment maintenance, Missoula VoTech; highway construction-rancher; Lodge Grass School Board trustee, six years; Partners in Policy Making, a Project of the Development Disabilities Planning and Advisory Council; Parents Let's Unite for Kids; U.S. Navy veteran; served in House 1997; wife's name is Maria, they have three children.

Ray Peck - Havre, District 91, Democrat. Born June 23, 1926 in Whitefish; B.A., College of Great Falls; M.Ed., University of Montana; Ed.D., Montana State University; retired; vice chairman, Montana Advocacy board; White House Conference on Handicapped; Class AA Administrators past president; College of Great Falls Alumni Award, 1966; U.S. Army Air Force veteran; served in House since 1983; minority leader, 1995-96; wife's name is Betty, they have seven children.

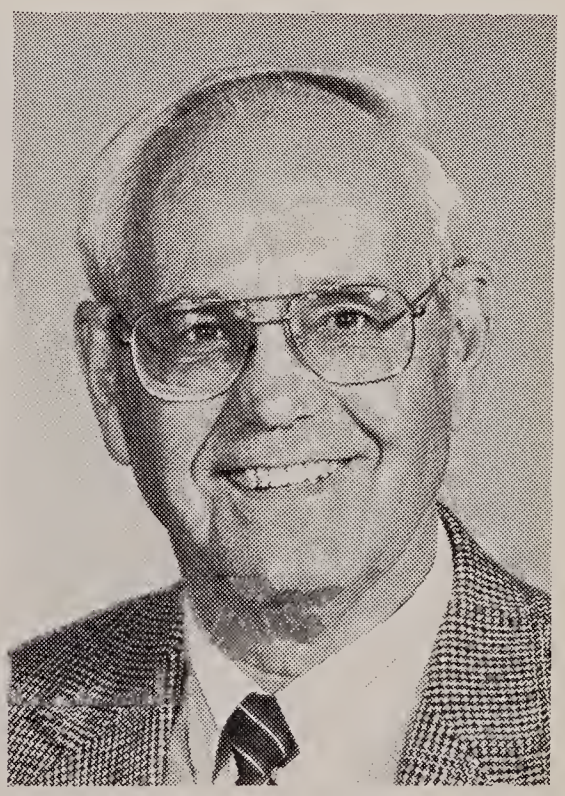
Ray Peck



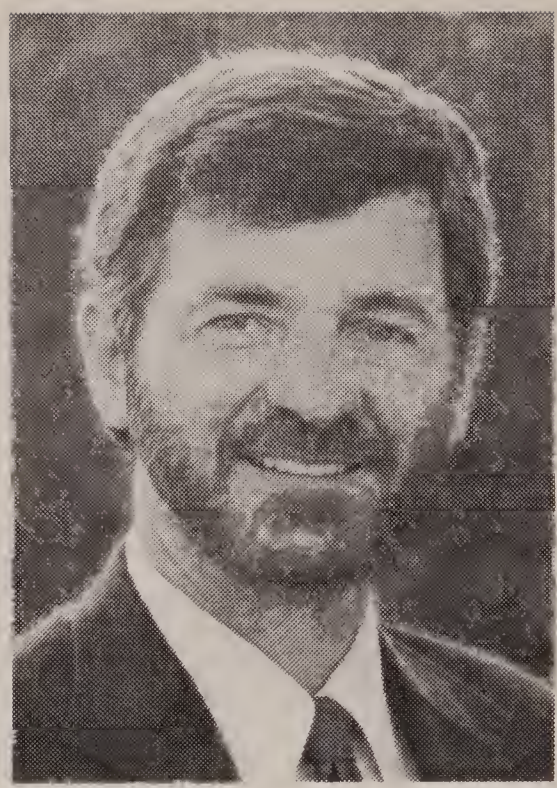
Wesley Prouse

Wesley Prouse - Shepherd, District 15, Republican. Born August 17, 1968 in Decatur, Illinois, and came to Montana in 1972; Shepherd High graduate; retailer; served in House 1997; wife's name is Melinda Sue, they have two daughters.

Joe Quilici - Butte, District 36, Democrat. Born July 6, 1925 in Butte; attended Montana State University; retired glazier, Quilici Glass; World War II veteran; served in House since 1971; Montana Consumer Council Committee chairman; Democratic whip, 1985-86; minority whip, 1987-88; majority whip, 1989-90; wife's name is Georgia Ann, they have two sons and three daughters.



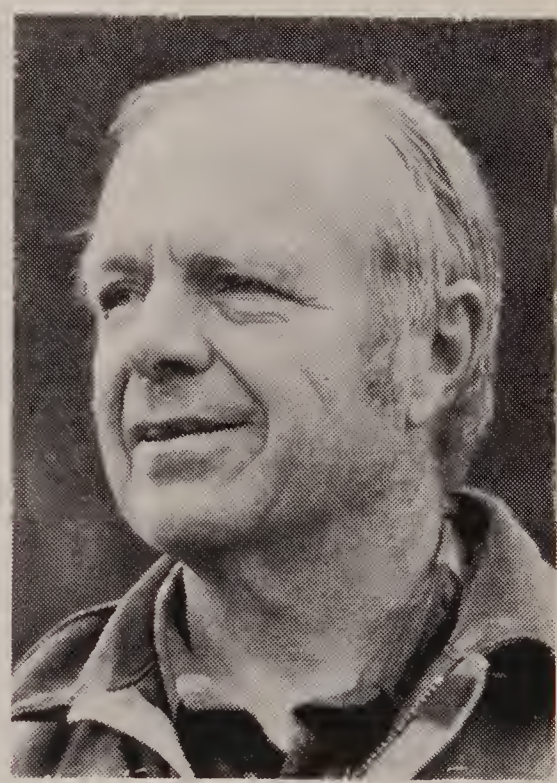
Joe Quilici



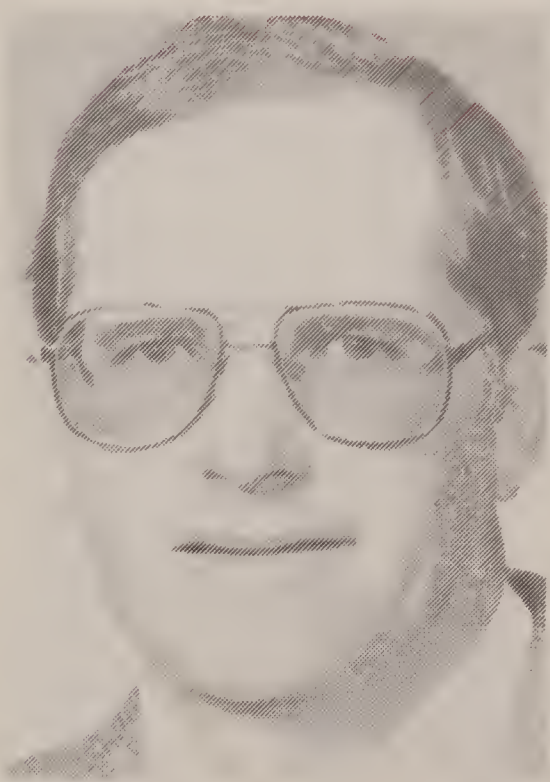
Bob Raney

Bob Raney - Livingston, District 26, Democrat. Born July 20, 1945 in Michigan City, Indiana, and came to Montana the same year; Park County High School graduate; B.S., earth science, Montana State University; retail business owner; Vietnam veteran, awarded Bronze Star; served in House since 1985; Natural Resources Committee chairman, 1989-92; wife's name is Jeanne-Marie Souvigney, they have two daughters.

Robert R. Ream - Missoula, District 69, Democrat. Born August 2, 1936 in Richland Center, Wisconsin and came to Montana in 1969; B.S., agriculture, University of Wisconsin; M.S., botany, University of Utah; Ph.D., botany, University of Wisconsin; University of Montana professor, acting dean of Forestry School, 1994; served in House since 1983.



Robert R. Ream

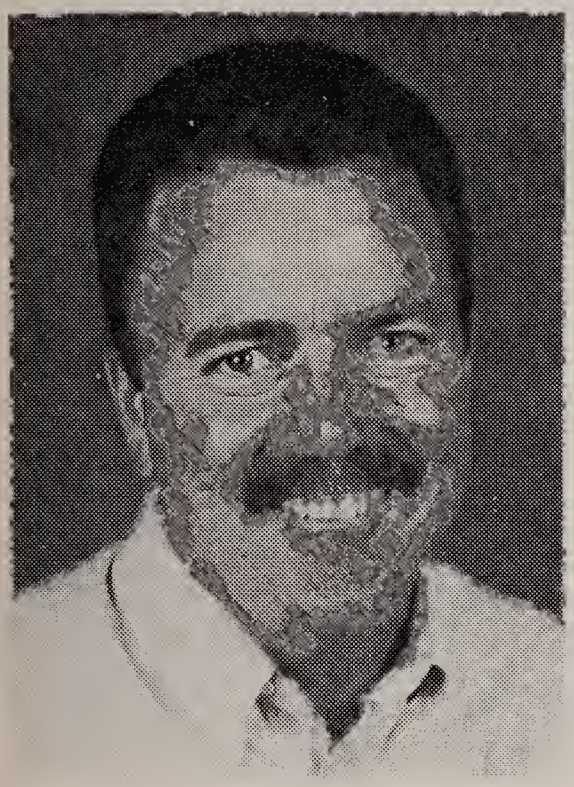


William Rehbein, Jr.

William Rehbein, Jr. - Lambert, District 100, Republican. Born Feb. 15, 1948 in Jamestown, N.D. and came to Montana in 1950; Lambert High School graduate, attended Dawson College and Eastern Montana College; farmer-rancher; served in House since 1993; wife's name is Christina, they have two sons and a daughter.

John M. "Sam" Rose. - Choteau, District 87, Republican. Born Oct. 12, 1929 in Choteau; Choteau High School graduate; B.S., zoology and entomology, Montana State University; rancher and retired teacher; Teton County Planning Board past chairman; Montana Farm Bureau board; Montana State University Alumni Assn. director; Montana Stockgrowers Assn. member; Police Commission chairman; U.S. Air Force veteran; served in House since 1993; wife's name is Beverly, they have two children.

John M. "Sam" Rose



William Ryan

William Mathew Ryan - Great Falls, District 44, Democrat. Born June 28, 1955 in Great Falls; C.M. Russell High School graduate; attended University of Wyoming; completed IBEW apprenticeship; journeyman lineman and safety director, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association; served in House since 1993; wife's name is Elaine, they have three daughters.

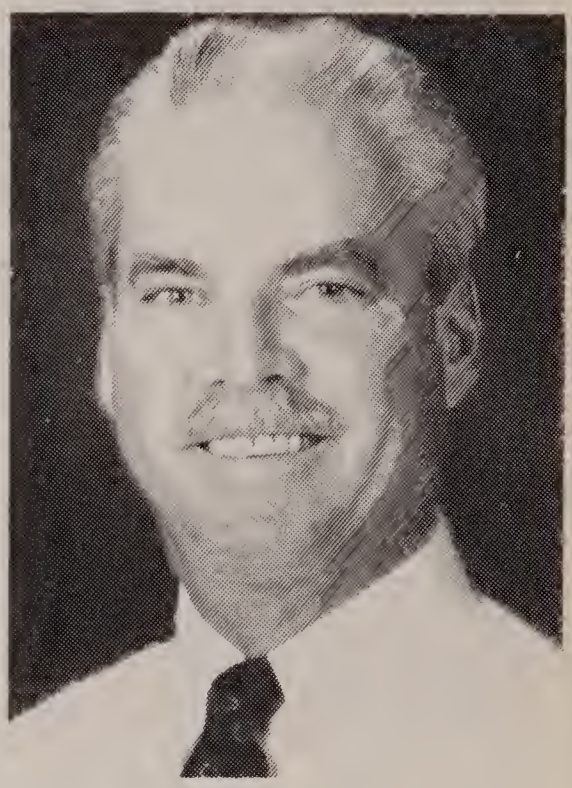
Diane Sands - Missoula, District 66, Democrat. Born March 23, 1947 in St. Ignatius; Frazer High School graduate; B.A., anthropology, University of Montana; graduate work in women's studies at George Washington University; consultant for social change and political organizations; served in House 1997; partner is Ann Mary Dussault, a former legislator who was the first female majority leader in the Montana House.

Diane Sands

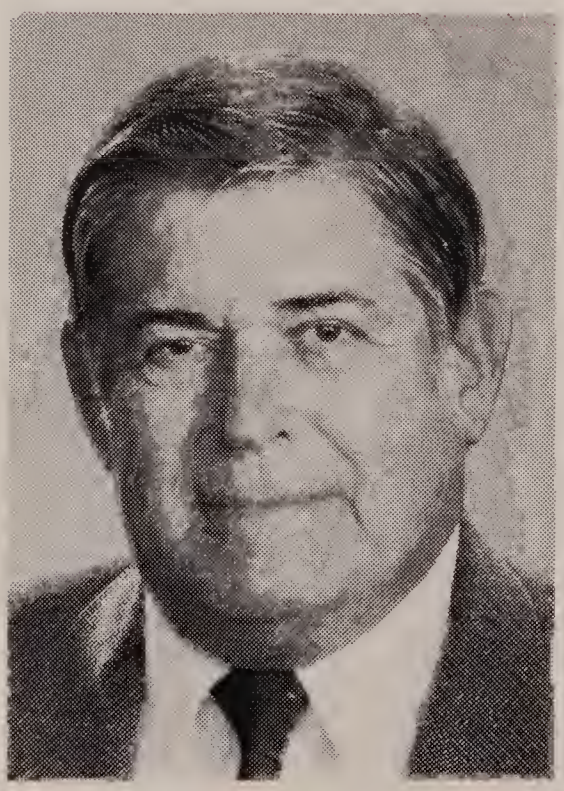
Trudi Schmidt

Trudi Schmidt - Great Falls, District 42, Democrat. Born December 7, 1938 in Butte; Missoula County High School graduate; B.S. and M.S., University of Montana; pregnancy adoption counselor and Great Falls area coordinator for Lutheran Social Services of Montana; active in several community organizations including Youth Justice Council, HANDS board president, AAUW and church; served in House 1997; husband's name is Del, they have a daughter and a son.

Bruce T. Simon - Billings, District 18, Republican. Born Jan. 20, 1942 in Billings; Billings Senior High School graduate; B.S., commerce, B.S., construction technology, M.S., marketing management, Montana State University; businessman-consultant; served in House 1985-90 and since 1993; wife's name is Sharon, they have three children.



Bruce T. Simon

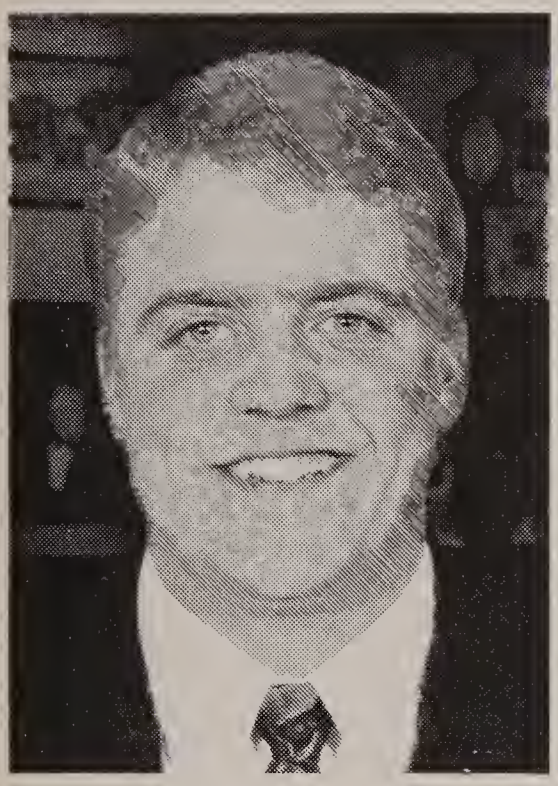


Richard D. Simpkins

Richard D. Simpkins - Great Falls, District 49, Republican. Born Aug. 15, 1934 in Riverside, Calif., and came to Montana in 1973; Riverside Polytechnic High School graduate; B.A., industrial management, University of California, Santa Barbara; retired U.S. Army; Cascade County Republican Central Committee executive board member; served in House since 1989; wife's name is Mary Jo, they have four children and five grandchildren.

Dorothy Simpson - Florence, District 61, Democrat. Born August 28, 1937 in Northfield, Minnesota, and came to Montana in 1955; Northfield High graduate; B.A., University of Montana; retired administrative secretary; Planned Parenthood past president; League of Women Voters' Voter Service chair; Stevensville Business Women's Club and Florence Civic Club member; Florence and Stevensville Senior Citizens Clubs active member; served in House 1997; widow, she has a daughter and a son.

Dorothy Simpson

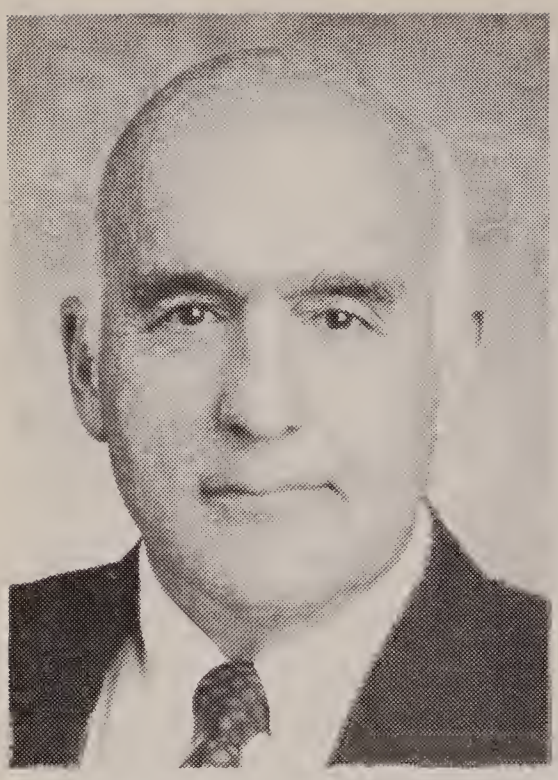


Paul Sliter

Paul Sliter - Somers, District 76, Republican. Born May 5, 1969 in Kalispell; Flathead High School graduate; attended University of Montana; lumber-hardware business; various volunteer activities; served in House since 1995; single.

Liz Smith - Deer Lodge, District 56, Republican. Born March 1, 1940 in Bend, Oregon, and came to Montana in 1943; nursing diploma, Columbus School of Nursing, Great Falls; registered nurse-nurse coordinator for Hospice of Powell County; has been a small business owner and operator; 4-H leader; search and rescue member; Kiwanis member; served in House since 1993; husband's name is Bill, they have four daughters, two sons and have been foster parents of 22 children.

Liz Smith

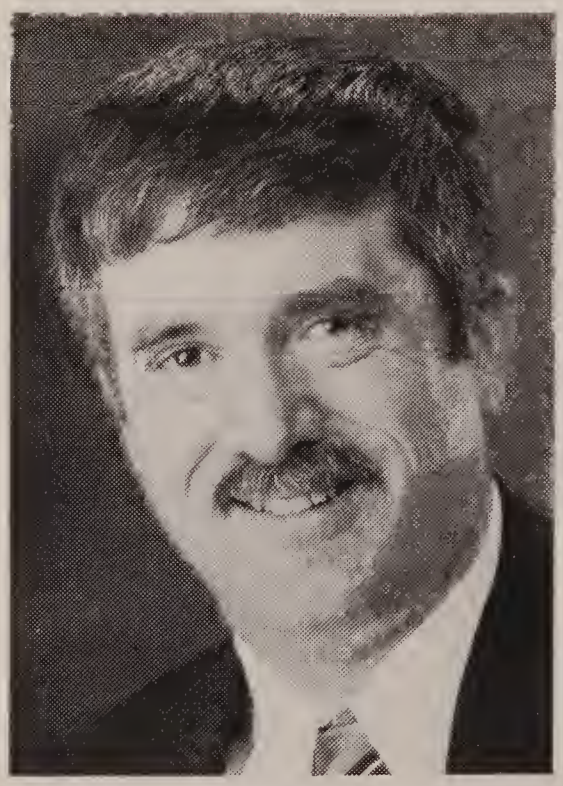


Loren Soft

Loren L. Soft - Billings, District 12, Republican. Born April 23, 1942 in Williston, N.D., came to Montana as an infant; Richey High School graduate; B.S. in business education and M.S. in counseling, Eastern Montana College; Yellowstone Treatment Centers President-CEO; served in House 1995; wife's name is Janice, they have two daughters.

Carolyn Squires - Missoula, District 68, Democrat. Born Sept. 25, 1940 in Whitefish; attended Everett and Seattle, Washington, schools; A.A., arts and sciences, Everett Junior College; LPN, Missoula Vo-Tech; licensed practical nurse; served in House since 1987; husband's name is Harold, they have two sons.

Carolyn Squires



Robert Story Jr.

Robert R. Story Jr. - Park City, District 24, Republican. Born Dec. 10, 1952 in Billings; Park City High School graduate; B.S. agricultural education, Montana State University; farmer-rancher; Park City School Board trustee, Stillwater Conservation District; served in House since 1995; he has three children.

Jay Stovall - Billings, District 16, Republican. Born March 2, 1940 in Billings; rancher; USDA Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunity; White House Conference on Indian Education Citizens Advisory Committee; Burial Preservation Board; 1989 Montana Centennial Cattle Drive trail boss; served in House since 1993; wife's name is Juanita, they have three sons.

Jay Stovall

Emily Swanson

Emily Swanson - Bozeman, District 30, Democrat. Born Jan. 12, 1947 in Oak Park, Illinois and came to Montana in 1969; Kent School, Denver, Colo.; B.A., political science, Bennington College, Vermont, M.A., environmental education, University of California, Berkeley; businesswoman; Montana State University College of Business Advisory Council member; WICHE commissioner; served in House since 1993; she has a son and a daughter.

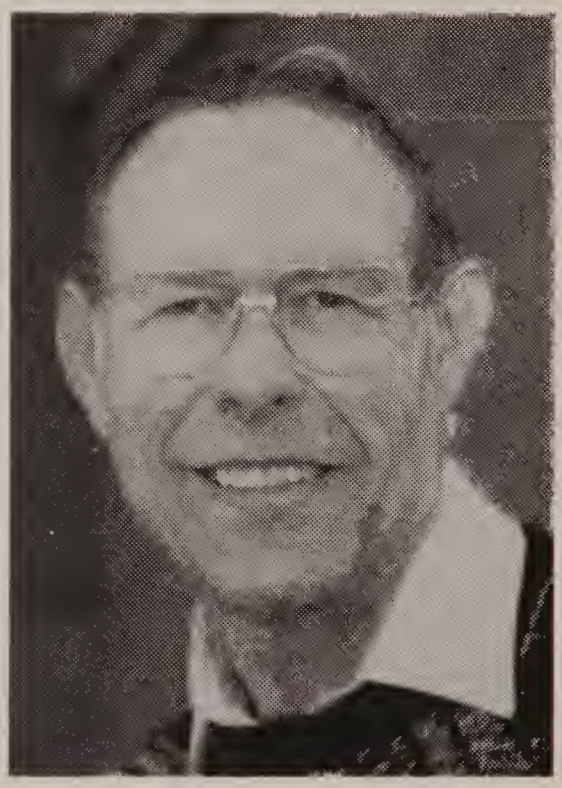
Bill Tash - Dillon, District 34, Republican. Born August 21, 1932 in Dillon; Beaverhead County High School graduate; attended Western Montana College and Montana State University; rancher; Barrett Hospital board; Montana Hospital Association trustee; American Hospital Association trustee delegate; U.S. Navy veteran; served in House since 1993; wife's name is Marlene, they have three sons and a daughter.

Bill Tash

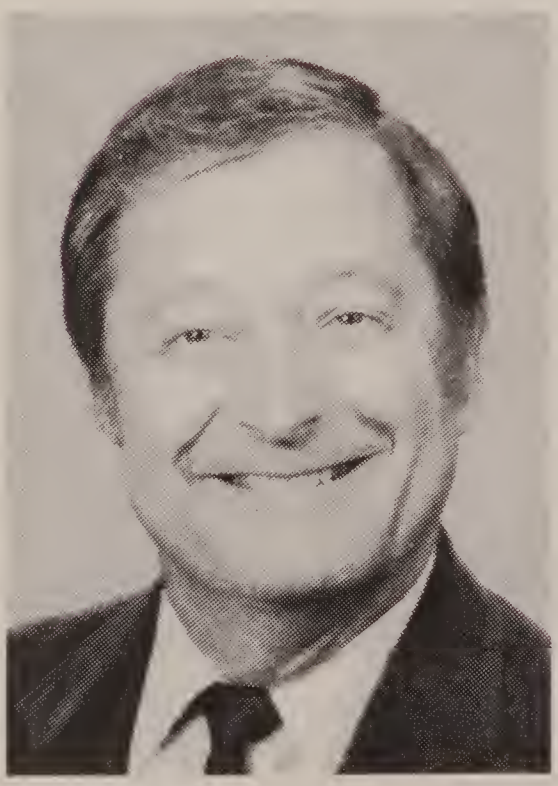
Lila Taylor

Lila V. Taylor - Busby, District 5, Republican. Born Jan. 11, 1949 in Roundup; Roundup High School graduate; B.S. agricultural business, Montana State University; rancher; Kirby School Board, seven years; 4-H leader, 12 years; NILE Junior Livestock superintendent, five years; Junior High advisory board; served in House since 1995; husband's name is Walter, they have three sons.

Cliff Trexler - Corvallis, District 59, Republican. Born Jan. 15, 1933 in Choteau; Choteau High School graduate, B.S., Montana State University; real estate broker and auctioneer; Ravalli County Fair Board chairman; served in House since 1995; wife's name is Jane, they have two sons, one daughter.



Cliff Trexler



Joe Tropila

Joseph "Joe" Tropila - Great Falls, District 47, Democrat. Born May 31, 1935 in Jersey City, N.J. and came to Montana in 1955; B.S. biology, chemistry/education, College of Great Falls; retired; teacher, natural gas engineer and restaurant-lounge owner; Cascade County Clerk and Recorder, 1981-93; U.S. Air Force Korean Conflict veteran; served in House 1975-80 and since 1993; wife's name is Mary, they have four children and four grandchildren.

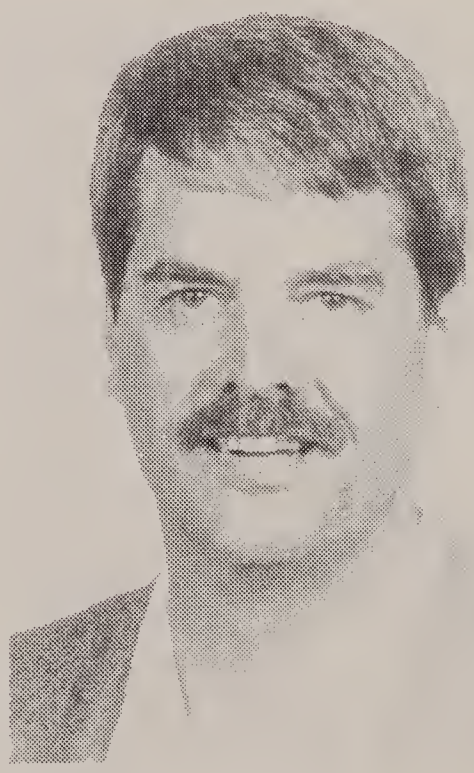
Carley Tuss - Great Falls, District 46, Democrat. Born Jan. 7, 1947 in Great Falls; Great Falls Central High School graduate; B.S., nursing, Montana State University; graduate work, Fordham University, New York City; registered nurse, working in the field of risk management and safety; served in House since 1993; single.

Carley Tuss

Steve Vick

Steven J. Vick - Belgrade, District 31, Republican. Born May 23, 1956 in Great Falls; B.S. engineering, Montana State University; owner of Vick Construction, a home remodeling and construction business; served in House since 1995; wife's name is Cheryl, they have three sons.

Douglas T. Wagner - Hungry Horse, District 83, Republican. Born Sept. 6, 1954 in Whitefish; Columbia Falls High School graduate; lead millwright at Plum Creek Columbia Falls Plywood; Hungry Horse Water and Sewer District Board past president; Hungry Horse Volunteer fireman, 20 years, and current Fire Board member; Montanans for Multiple Use past president and current member; served in House since 1993; wife's name is Peggy, they have a son and two daughters.

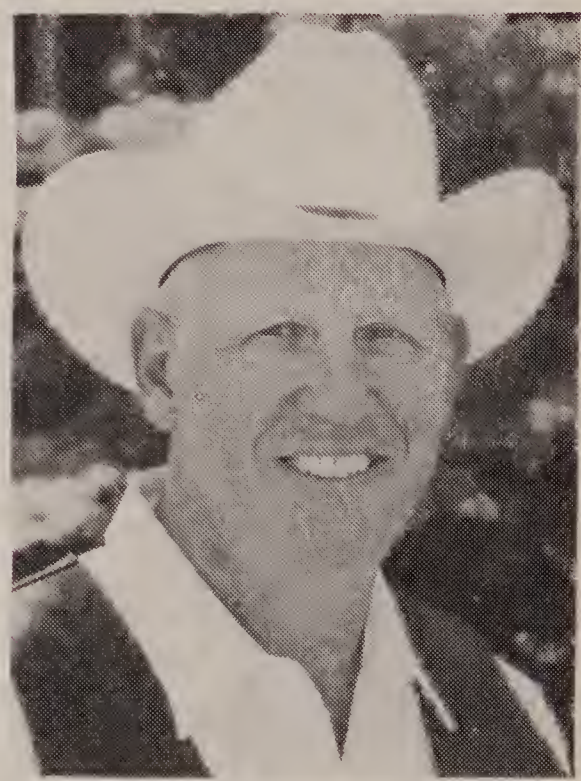


Douglas T. Wagner

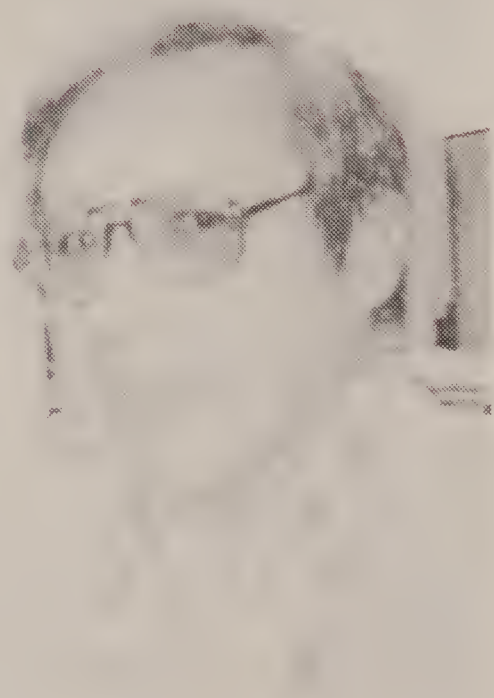
Allan Walters

Allan Walters - Hamilton, District 60, Republican. Born December 22, 1941 in Wisconson and came to Montana in 1982; West Bend, Wisconsin, High School graduate; self-employed businessman; Scout leader 12 years; U.S. Army veteran; served in House 1997; wife's name is Carol, they have a daughter.

Jack Wells - Bozeman, District 27, Republican. Born September 13, 1937 in Neihart; Great Falls High School graduate; B.A. engineering and M.S. electrical engineering, Dartmouth College; retired U.S. Air Force colonel; Montana Landlords Assn. National Rifle Assn. and Experimental Aircraft Assn. member; U.S. Air Force 30 years; served in House since 1995; wife's name is Mary Gay, he has four sons, two stepsons and two stepdaughters.



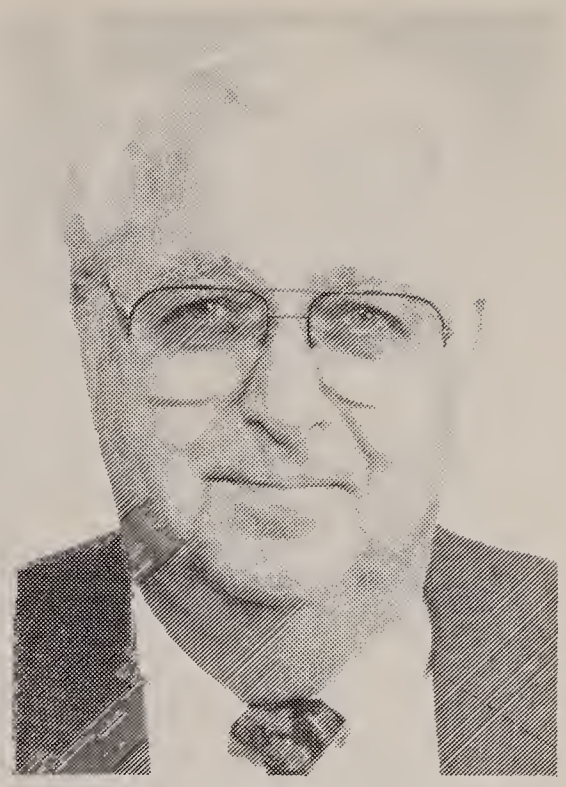
Jack Wells



Bill Whitehead

Bill Whitehead - Wolf Point, District 98, Democrat. Born June 10, 1939 in Poplar; attended Poplar and Wolf Point schools, GED, Eastern Montana College; B.A., community organization, University of Northeastern Illinois, Chicago; graduate work in public administration, University of Colorado, Denver; administrator-organizer; Fort Peck Tribal Museum director-curator, 1987-present; Wolf Point Community Organization vice chairman and chairman, 1983-present; Native American Educational Services organizer and former coordinator; MontCEL board of directors; U..S. Army veteran; served in House 1997; he has three children.

William R. "Bill" Wiseman - Great Falls, District 41, Republican. Born June 1, 1932 in Hartley, Texas and came to Montana in 1971; Dumas, Texas, High School graduate, B.S. in architectural construction, Texas A&M University, M.A., political science, University of Oklahoma; retired stock broker; retired U.S. Air Force pilot; served in House since 1993; wife's name is "Boots", they have four sons.

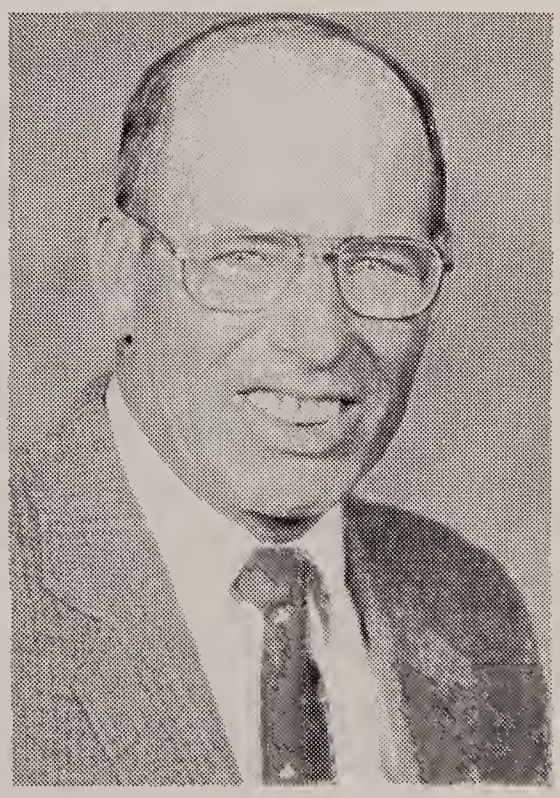


William R. "Bill" Wiseman

Diana Wyatt

Diana Wyatt - Great Falls, District 42, Democrat. Born August 25, 1947 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and came to Montana in 1974; bachelor's, biology, Radford University, Virginia; master's, counseling, Niagara University, New York; coordinator of special services, MSU College of Technology, Great Falls; served in House since 1989; husband's name is Michael, they have one daughter.

Tom Zook - Miles City, District 3, Republican. Born Jan. 29, 1932 in Miles City; Custer County High School graduate; rancher; school board trustee, nine years; Miles City PCA director, nine years; Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, Spokane, advisory board member; U.S. Navy veteran; served in House since 1989; wife's name is Isabel, they have five daughters and two sons.



Tom Zook

House Committee Leadership

Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation
Rep. Joe Barnett, chairman
Rep. Sam Rose, vice chairman
Rep. Bill Ryan, vice chairman

Appropriations
Rep. Tom Zook, chairman
Rep. Ed Grady, vice chairman
Rep. Joe Quilici, vice chairman

Business and Labor
Rep. Bruce Simon, chairman
Rep. Paul Sliter, vice chairman
Rep. Bob Pavlovich, vice chairman

Corrections Select Committee
Rep. Ernest Bergsagel, chairman
Rep. Red Menahan, vice chairman

Education & Cultural Resources
Rep. Alvin Ellis, Jr., chairman
Rep. Peggy Arnott, vice chair
Rep. Dan Harrington, vice chair

Ethics
Rep. Sonny Hanson, chairman
Rep. Deb Kottel, vice chair

Fish and Game
Rep. Doug Wagner, chairman
Rep. William Rehbein, vice chair
Rep. Emily Swanson, vice chair

Highways and Transportation
Rep. Shiell Anderson, chairman
Rep. Rick Jore, vice chairman
Rep. Pat Galvin, vice chairman

Human Service and Aging
Rep. Duane Grimes, chairman
Rep. Loren Soft, vice chairman
Rep. Carolyn Squires, vice chair

Judiciary
Rep. Bob Clark, chairman
Rep. Dan McGee, vice chair
Rep. Diana Wyatt, vice chair

Legislative Administration
Rep. Harriet Hayne, chairwoman
Rep. Vicki Cocchiarella, vice chair

Local Government
Rep. Norm Mills, chairman
Rep. Chris Ahner, vice chair
Rep. David Ewer, vice chair

Natural Resources
Rep. Dick Knox, chairman
Rep. Bill Tash, vice chairman
Rep. Hal Harper, vice chairman

Rules
Rep. Larry Grinde, chairman
Rep. Marian Hanson, vice chair
Rep.Vicki Cocchiarella , vice chair

State Administration
Rep. Matt Denny, chairman
Rep. Matt Brainard, vice chairman
Rep. Toni Hagener, vice chair

State-Federal Relations
Rep. Aubyn Curtiss, chair
Rep. Matt Brainard, vice chair
Rep. George Heavy Runner
vice chair

Taxation
Rep. Chase Hibbard, chairman
Rep. Bob Story, vice chair
Rep. Bob Ream, vice chairman